

Hafa Adai!

CNMI proactively preparing for possible monkeypox outbreak. **PAGE 2**  
Former Drug Court grad arrested for drug trafficking. **PAGE 3**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 156

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2022

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

## GOP, Democratic bets file their candidacies

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**G**ov. Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan, led the NMI Republican Party candidates, while Rep. Christina

E. Sablan and her running mate, Rep. Leila Fleming Staffler, were at the forefront of the NMI Democratic Party candidates, as they all filed their candidacy papers Friday.

The NMI Republican Party supporters and family members accompanying Torres and

See **GOP** on **Page 4**

## Honolulu utility finds chemical in Red Hill monitoring well

By **AUDREY McAVOY**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**HONOLULU** (AP)—The Honolulu Board of Water Supply said Thursday it has detected a small amount of a chemical naturally occurring in coal, crude oil and gasoline in a monitoring well near a Navy fuel storage facility that spilled jet fuel last year.

The utility said in a news release it found “very low

levels” of the chemical, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. It said it shared its data with the state Department of Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and both agencies agree these low levels are not expected to cause any health effects. Still, they agreed the situation needs attention and continued monitoring, the utility said.

The Board of Water Supply  
See **HONOLULU** on **Page 4**



## Jerry Tan is first recipient of UOG President's Medal

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The University of Guam bestowed its first ever President's Medal award to Tan Holdings president and CEO Jerry Tan during the UOG Athletic Scholarship Signing and Alumni Luncheon last Friday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

UOG president Dr. Thomas Krise, who presented Tan with the medal, said that Tan is a “real role model” for someone who is fulfilling the university's mission statement, which is “*Na, Desku-bre, Setbe*” (To Enlighten, to Discover, to Serve).

See **TAN** on **Page 4**

## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

DFS Group is getting ready for its first-ever virtual universe—DFS World—this August.

**PAGE 11**



### WORLD

Israeli airstrikes flatten homes in Gaza and Palestinian rocket crash into southern Israel on Saturday.

**PAGE 13**



### LIFE & STYLE

Anne Heche is in the hospital following an accident in which her car smashed into a house.

**PAGE 15**



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



# Local

## CNMI proactively preparing for possible monkeypox outbreak

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Although monkeypox has not been identified in the CNMI yet, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has already taken steps to proactively prepare in case of a possible outbreak.

According to

As of last week, the World Health Organization has already declared monkeypox as “an outbreak of Public Health International emergency of

international concern,” according to territorial state epidemiologist Jennifer Dudek. Additionally, as of last Friday, Dudek said Guam media outlets reported a possible monkeypox specimen that has yet to yield results.

“According to a recent news reports, Guam is currently awaiting the result of one specimen they sent off to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. While there are currently no cases of monkeypox that

have been reported within the CNMI, CHCC is actively monitoring the situation, staying up to date with how to collect samples, where to send them, testing, and just urging individuals in the community to recognize the signs of the virus,” she said.

Because monkeypox has been declared a Public Health international emergency, CHCC Public Health medical director Lily Muldoon said CHCC has taken the necessary steps to prepare in case of

an outbreak.

“Nothing to be alarmed about yet with monkeypox. We are not seeing it in the CNMI but, I’m sure we’re hearing about monkeypox on the national and international news level. Rest assured, the CDC and our epidemiology team are increasing our surveillance, being ready for testing, and trying to increase our vaccines stock loads so that we are prepared if monkeypox does come to the CNMI,” she said.

Muldoon noted that there currently are no treatments for monkeypox, but vaccines are forthcoming.

“We currently do not have any treatment for monkeypox, but we do have the opportunity that is forthcoming for vaccines. Currently, the CNMI does not have any vaccines available on island because the CDC is giving out vaccines based on the need of the jurisdiction. Currently the CNMI does not have any suspected cases so we don’t have any of the vaccines allocated to us at this time,” Muldoon said.

As of last week, however, Muldoon shared that monkeypox testing has been made available to the CNMI. “There currently is monkeypox testing that is sent out so we can send swabs to Hawaii and expect about a week to 10 days before the rash or specimen results can come back to us,” she said.

Monkeypox, Muldoon said, is a rare disease of the same viral family as smallpox and has similar symptoms to smallpox, but milder.

“The symptoms of monkeypox include fever, chills, headache, body aches, swollen lymph nodes, but the most identifiable component of monkeypox is a rash. This is a rash that looks like pimples

or blisters that can appear on the face, inside of the mouth, or other parts of the body, including the hands, the feet, the chest, and also in the genitals and could be confused for a sexually transmitted disease,” she said.

“Monkeypox is spread from very close contact with somebody who has the infectious rash, or from bodily fluids. In addition, people who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others. They actually have to have the physical rash itself in order for it to be contagious,” Muldoon added.

She said the illness typically lasts about two to four weeks.

“If you have any concerns about a rash, feel free to contact your medical provider to be seen. It’s always good to be checked out to make sure that we identify the rashes and can help educate you about any prevention measures. If you are concerned about having monkeypox, please isolate at home so it does not spread to other people. You can contact CHCC to visit a healthcare provider and we recommend contacting in advance to let us know that you’re coming because we don’t want those with the rash to be intermingling with our general patient population,” Muldoon said.

## Grand launch tomorrow for Hafa Adai-Tirow Tuesdays, Thursdays

To provide visitors and residents a cultural experience highlighting indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Carolinian Affairs Office, and Indigenous Affairs Office kicked off the Hafa Adai-Tirow Tuesdays and Thursdays cultural experience in Garapan, Saipan, last Aug. 2.

Coconut frond hats, fresh fried fish, and traditional dance were all part of opening night. The inaugural event was held from 5pm to 9pm at the CAO grounds in Garapan, Saipan, next to the Saipan lagoon and featured Chamorro and Carolinian live entertainment by musicians Ace Elameto, JJ Aguon, and Marvin Deleon Guerrero, as well as Carolinian dance groups Refaluwasch Warriors and Uraali.

Arts, crafts, and other products were demonstrated or sold by Bwiibs Merchandise, Will & Ebs Tropic Threads, Islandry670 Handmade, Bonitu Basula, Flower Pot Creations, and John Gerald Pangelinan. Food sales by Chagi Norf Kitchen and Island Snow included indigenous dishes.

“Hafa Adai-Tirow Tuesdays and Thursdays provides authentic cultural experiences

for our visitors, and we are grateful to partner with the Carolinian Affairs Office and the Indigenous Affairs Office on this event, which will continue for the foreseeable future in the heart of Garapan,” said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “We already had tourists starting to show up on the first night and that’s wonderful. It’s one step further in the MVA’s strategic goal of promoting Chamorro and Carolinian culture to our visitors, and we anticipate that this event will grow to become something that both visitors and residents can count for a taste of local culture.”

The event returns tomorrow, Aug. 9, with the official grand opening. The MVA is providing funding for nightly entertainment and support with publicity, while CAO is providing manpower, and logistical coordination. The event also features the CAO’s Project Liffang, where small business entrepreneurs such as local artists and craftspeople sell their local products.

For more information, contact Carolinian Affairs Office project coordinator Agatha Ketebengang at outreach.cao@gmail.com or 234-6384. (MVA)

# Save Big on Back to School



Apple iPhone SE

iPhone SE 64GB

**\$15<sup>97</sup>**

per month  
with ACCESS \$30

iPhone SE 128GB

**\$17<sup>63</sup>**

per month  
with ACCESS \$30



**Free \$50 Gift Certificate when you sign up!**

**JOETEN**

**AllStar**  
SPORTING GOODS

**BOARDERLINE**



670-488-CARE  
docomopacific.com

**docomo pacific**  
Better Together



# Former Drug Court grad arrested for alleged drug trafficking

**KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

One of the first graduates of the CNMI Judiciary's Drug Court program has been arrested after the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force allegedly uncovered during

several sting operations that he was trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" again.

Joseph T. White, also known as "Dimps," one of the CNMI's first Drug Court graduates, was arrested anew for two counts of possession and two counts of trafficking

crystal methamphetamine, more commonly known as "ice."

During his bail hearing last Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on White before remanding him back to Department of Corrections custody. However, during a bail modification hearing last Friday, Bogdan granted White's request to reduce his bail to \$50,000 and allowed him to post just 10% and he'd be released to two third-party custodians.

White has yet to post bail and remains in DOC custody. The court ordered him to return to court on Aug. 10, at 10am for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for Aug. 15, at 9am.

According to court documents, DETF officers learned from a cooperating source last July 12 that they had purchased \$100 worth of "ice" from White on July 11.

Based on this information, DETF officers launched two controlled buy-walk operations against White, the first one on July 13 and the sec-

ond one on July 14.

According to the police, the first buy-walk operation resulted in the cooperating source buying drugs from White in Garapan in the afternoon of that day. DETF officers acquired one small Ziplock baggie containing a crystalline substance that was later tested and yielded presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

The second buy walk operation was conducted the next day, July 14 and like the previous operation, the CS purchased \$100 worth of meth-

amphetamine from White, but this time at Friendly Market in San Jose.

After the operation, DETF officers showed CS a photo of White who confirmed for officers that he was "Dimps," the man they had just purchased the drugs from.



Joseph White, a former Drug Court graduate who was arrested anew for trafficking methamphetamine, is escorted from the courtroom of Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan following his bail modification hearing last Friday.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

## ART MAN CORPORATION



### SERVICES will be:

- Sewer Pumping
- Snake Wiring
- Portable Toilet Rental
- Portable Hand Wash Station
- Handling Recyclable Wastes

PMB 122 Box 10000  
MP 96950, Lower Base  
artmancorporation@gmail.com  
Please Call: 234-8079 | 287-8079



*Staycation* WITH YOUR *Bestie* THIS WEEKEND  
"FRIEND-CATION" ROOM & MASSAGE FOR TWO(2) STARTING AT JUST \$190



### staycation PACKAGE

1 night stay in our deluxe gardenview room  
5pm late checkout | all day happy hour

**\$140\***

+15% tax | \$161.00 total

### breakfast PACKAGE

1 night stay in our deluxe gardenview room  
breakfast for two(2) adults  
5pm late checkout | all day happy hour

**\$160\***

+15% tax | \$184.00 total

### dine & relax PACKAGE

1 night stay in our deluxe gardenview room  
5pm late checkout | all day happy hour  
steak night, seafood night or sunday brunch  
for two(2) adults

**\$190\***

+15% tax | \$218.50 total

### large family PACKAGE

accommodates up to eight(8) guests  
1 night stay in two(2) adjoining  
deluxe large gardenview rooms  
includes 2 free pizzas!

**\$320\***

+15% tax | \$368.00 total

for reservations & more info : (670) 322-1234 ext. 772

\*cnmi & guam resident rates - valid cnmi or guam ID required rates valid 8/1/22-8/31/22 15% tax  
will be added to total may not be used with other promotions or discounts package benefits may not be  
transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash facilities & benefits for registered guests, during stay duration only.







## GOP

From Page 1

Sen. Vinnie Sablan, who are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, and the 26 other GOP candidates in filing their candidacies. Two Republican candidates earlier filed their candidacies, while one is expected to file this week.

Republican Party supporters and family members showed up at the CEC office in Susupe at 10:45am, most of them wearing red shirts that were emblazoned with the party's campaign slogan, "Together, Stronger."

Torres and Sen. Vinnie Sablan were the first among the 26 Republican candidates who submitted their petitions for nomination and candidacy documents to CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol and her staff.

Starting at 3:30pm, Democratic Party candidates led by Rep. Christina Sablan and Staffler, along with about a hundred supporters wearing blue shirts printed with the party's slogan, "Trusted Leadership," arrived at CEC, with the CNMI's first governor himself, Carlos Camacho, also showing up to support the Democratic Party's candidates.

Rep. Christina Sablan and Staffler, who are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, were the last to file among the 10

Democratic Party candidates. Two other candidates have already earlier filed their candidacies.

Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who is seeking his 8th term in the U.S. House of Representatives, was the first one to submit his election documents.

Two others—Rep. Celina R. Babauta, who is running for a Saipan and Northern Islands Senate seat, and Rep. Denita Yangetmai, who is seeking re-election for a House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat, had already filed their candidacies.

In a later interview, Torres thanked the CNMI community for giving him and the Republican Party its vote of confidence for the last several years.

"And also I'd like to thank all of the supporters, families, and candidates that filed today to show their support and continue to believe in the family of GOP," said Torres, who turned 43 last Saturday and is the youngest governor in the U.S.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres shakes the hand of Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol after he and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan, right, filed their candidacy documents at CEC office in Susupe Friday morning. Torres and Sablan are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, under the NMI Republican Party, in the Nov. 8 general election. Also in the photo is special assistant for Department of Homeland Security Dennis C. Mendiola, to Torres' right, who filed his candidacy for a Rota Senate seat.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Reps. Christina E. Sablan and Leila F. Staffler, and Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan pose for a group photo with supporters and family members shortly after they, along with other NMI Democratic Party candidates, filed their candidacies before the Commonwealth Election Commission office in Susupe Friday afternoon. Reps. Christina Sablan and Staffler are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively. Delegate Gregorio Sablan is seeking his 8th term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan signs his candidacy documents before Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol Friday afternoon. Sablan is seeking his 8th term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Also in the photo is Sablan's mother, wife, family members, and supporters.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## TAN

From Page 1

"[It's the] highest award that the president of the university can give and for people who really demonstrated enthusiasm for the mission of the university. It's for people like Jerry who touched so many aspects of this community. In this case it's scholarships, sports, higher education, the economy, and keeping our brains in the CNMI and in the region," said Krise.

He also clarified that the award is not meant for UOG alumni only as it can be awarded to anyone.

"This is our 70th year, our platinum jubilee. So we decided to institute a new award that's called the President's Medal. This award is given to people in our community that demonstrate a particular commitment

to our mission," he said.

He said Tan has been a supporter of the university for a very long time and is one of the most prominent people in the entire region. "Tan Holdings is a family company that is engaged throughout the region as one of the few organizations that actually thinks of the whole Micronesian region as a region," he added.

Tan, who graduated from UOG in 1983, said that education is important to his family, especially to his father, Tan Siu Lin.

"I graduated and took advantage of the education I received and did my best in my life for our region. For my father, education is the most important area of charity. He continues to do a lot of charity work in Hong Kong where he lives and in other countries as well," Tan said.

He added that UOG has a very

special place in their family's hearts as he and his siblings are all alumni. "Many people don't actually know that all my siblings went to University of Guam because the timeline when we moved to Guam as an immigrant we were all going to school at that time. So, everyone of us graduated from the University of Guam," he said.

Tan said that, while he's pretty much flattered being the first recipient of the UOG President's Medal, the occasion last Friday was intended more to celebrate the signing of five CNMI student-athletes who will continue their journey at the school he graduated from. (See story on Page 20)

"It's very special for me today other than being recognized today. Thank you very much, Dr. Krise and UOG, but at the same time I'm very, very happy to be here to be part of this ceremony," he added.

## HONOLULU

From Page 1

ply said the discovery heightens its concern that fuel spilled from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is migrating through the aquifer located under the tank farm.

The utility has three wells that tap the aquifer to supply drinking water to more than 400,000 Oahu residents.

It shut down those wells in December when it learned fuel had flowed from the tank farm into a Navy drinking water well supplying water to 93,000 people on and near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. That leak sickened some 6,000 of the Navy's water users with nausea, headaches and other symptoms.

The utility worries fuel may travel through the aquifer's porous volcanic rock from the area around the Navy's well to its own wells, which could poison Honolulu's own water supply. It has been calling on the Navy to swiftly remove fuel from the tanks to reduce the threat of further leaks.

The Board of Water Supply said it found the chemical in water samples taken from a well about 1,500 feet (457 meters) southeast of the Red Hill facility. It also found total petroleum hydrocarbons in the same samples.

Lydia Robertson, a spokesperson for Navy Region Hawaii, said the Navy hasn't seen the utility's data but would welcome the opportunity to review it.

Ernie Lau, the Board of Water Supply's chief engineer, called the detections "warnings that we cannot ignore."

"Our precious and irreplaceable water resources are at risk of further contamination every day the fuel remains in the Red Hill tanks," he said in a statement. "We urge the Navy to expeditiously defuel and permanently close the Red Hill facility — Ola I Ka Wai," he said, using the Hawaiian language phrase meaning "water is life."

The military in April agreed to an order from the state of Hawaii to drain the tanks and close the World War II-era tank farm. But it says December 2024 is the earliest it can accomplish this.

A Navy investigation released last month said a cascading series of mistakes from May through November of last year caused 20,000 gallons (75,700 liters) of fuel to spill into its drinking water well. It blamed mismanagement and human error for the episode.

The leak was the most recent of a series of fuel spills from Red Hill dating to 2014.



# Torres launches COVID Care Force Rota Office

The CNMI Office of the Governor, in collaboration with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, launched the COVID Care Force on Rota last Thursday.

The CCF Rota Office employs 16 residents of Rota. CCF's mission is to help com-

bat the spread of COVID-19 by providing direct aid to residents and establishments by distributing personal protective equipment, supplies, and information relative to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

CCF is an initiative estab-

lished by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as a COVID-19 mitigation and response strategy for the Commonwealth. CCF now has offices on Saipan and Rota. The Tinian CCF office is scheduled to open by the end of the month.

CCF has had a direct impact

on the CNMI, having distributed over 3,000 test kits in the first six months of 2022. Approximately 500 test kits were distributed at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tinian Pika Fest; 1,000 test kits and 1,000 bottles of water at the 2022 Pacific Mini Games; and 1,000 CCF

care packages at various events to include house to house distribution. CCF care packages include masks, hand sanitizers, personal home test kits, and information regarding mental health and other social services to assist the community.

"Our administration is taking the fight against this virus head on. In addition to the Fit to Lead physical, mental, and healthy workplace initiative, CCF provides CNMI residents direct aid. Homeland Security is our lead agency working in close collaboration with the COVID-19 Task Force. Special assistant Dennis Mendiola, who

leads Homeland Security and oversees CCF outreach efforts, is rooted right here on Rota," Torres stated.

"Governor Torres' leadership in providing lifesaving supplies and services directly to the people house-to-house and at major events is another first in the region. It empowers families by connecting people who need resources to protect their families such as PPEs, water, food, related health care services and assistive technologies," said Mendiola.

For more information on the COVID Care Force, contact Mendiola at (670) 488-2011. **(PR)**

## CUC ADVISORIES

### Power service interruptions on Aug. 9 and 10

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Aug. 9 and 10, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022

■ Time: 9am to 1pm

■ Area(s) Affected:

□ Capitol Hill (Ascencion Dr., Guguan Drive, Mednilla Av., Acho St., Ascencion Ct., Anatahan Dr., Tano Ct., Pajaron Lp., Managaha Pl., Farallon Pl.).

□ Wireless (Chalan Savana, Schap Faluw Pl., Agrigan Ln., Punta Ln., Marianas Ln., Kantit Ln., & Sariguan Dr.). See map.

■ Purpose: To replace two burnt primary power poles along Capitol Hill Road.

■ Circuit: Feeder 4

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022

■ Time: 8:30am to 12:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: San Vicente (Nativo Dr., Kalahi Ln., Lupok Way, Abaniku Ln., Ankla Pl., Kommat Way, & Lamasa Pl.).

■ Purpose: To perform line clearing work along Kommat Way in San Vicente.

■ Circuit: Kiya 1

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None **(PR)**

### Water service interruption on Aug. 10 in Upper San Vicente

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Katbon Road, Shoko Drive, Bentana Drive and Palu Drive in the Upper San Vicente area.

The scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC water operators to repair service lateral leaks on Katbon Road and Shoko Drive in San Vicente. Customers should expect normal water service soon after.

For the safety of the men and women working at the jobsite,

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp  
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
  - d. Adoption of Minutes: 10-22-21, and 12-28-21
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. CDBG-DR Updates
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Review and Approval of the CDBG-MIT Policies and Procedures
  - b. Updated Nelrod Salary Compensation Study
  - c. Renewal of Corporate Director's Employment Contract
  - d. Payoff Request for Defaulted Loan
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/  
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane  
Chairperson of the Board

motorists are advised to proceed with caution and/or take an alternative route when traveling through the area as the shoulder of the southbound lane will be closed during the repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

## Conquer The Classroom.

Keep it safe with a case and tempered glass bundle for only \$10.



**iPhone 12**

**\$379**

**\$55/mo\***  
**30GB PLAN**

[ite.net](http://ite.net) [itecnmi](https://itecnmi.com) [itecnmi](https://itecnmi.com)

Terms and conditions apply. Accessory bundle available while supplies last with purchase of iPhone 12 on 30 GB or Unlimited Plan. Contract required. Subject to credit check. Visit [ite.net](http://ite.net) or see stores for details.







## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131



### Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 22 – 082

Opening Date: July 26, 2022  
Closing Date: August 8, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Customer Service/Call Center
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking for a qualified Human Resources Technician. Under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

#### Duties:

- Updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services.
- Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits.
- Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status.
- Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources.
- Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files records, reports and accounting transaction documentation.
- Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports.

#### Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS.

**Knowledge of:** Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

# Court junks case filed vs newspapers

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has dismissed the lawsuit filed by a man against local newspapers, the Department of Public Safety, and the CNMI government for defamation, slander, and violation of his constitutional rights.

Chief Judge Ramona Manglona dismissed with prejudice the lawsuit filed by Brandon M. Rangamar, a man accused of looking through a bathroom window while a woman was taking a shower. Dismissal with prejudice means the suit cannot be refiled.

According to Manglona’s order that she issued Thursday, back on Jan. 28, 2022—over six months ago—upon screening Rangamar’s pro se application to proceed in forma pauperis, or without paying court costs, the court dismissed the complaint but granted him leave to amend to assert a defamation claim.

In doing so, the court directed Rangamar to file his first amended complaint no later than Feb. 28, 2022, if he still wishes

to pursue his claim, and warned Rangamar that failure to file any amended complaint by this deadline would result in the court dismissing the action with prejudice and directing closure of the case.

“To date, the court has not received any first amended complaint or any other filings from Rangamar. It is well settled [by the Ninth] Circuit [Court] that a district court has power to dismiss an action for want of prosecution on its own motion, both under Rule 41(b), and under its local rule, or even in the absence of such rule. Accordingly, the court dismissed this action with prejudice,” Manglona stated.

Rangamar, 48, filed his lawsuit with the District Court for the NMI against the CNMI government, DPS, Saipan Tribune, and Marianas Variety following the publication of his mugshot and details of his ongoing case.

According to the lawsuit, Rangamar claims that the publication of the case against him caused him and his family stress, embarrassment, and loss of

possible employment. He took issue with the CNMI government allowing the publication of “damaging information” of crimes still pending court proceedings. “The CNMI government permits a law that any worldwide or local entity to broadly publish damaging detailed information of crimes still pending court proceedings,” he said.

As for DPS, he sued DPS for allegedly publicly embarrassing him by releasing his photo and details about his case. “The CNMI police department publicly embarrassed me by posting my photo and damaging, detailed information of my alleged crime on Facebook on April 7, 2021,” he said.

Meanwhile, Rangamar sued Saipan Tribune and Marianas Variety for defamation and slander, for their published headlines.

The Saipan Tribune initially reported, based on a DPS news release, that Rangamar has been arrested in the early part of 2021 after a 911 caller reported seeing Rangamar looking through the bathroom window while she was taking a shower.



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
[www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

### AIRLINE STAIRS & AMBULIFT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-22

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (“the CPA”) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (“the RFP”) and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its airline stairs and ambulift truck at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning July 18, 2022, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Christopher S. Tenorio, Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority either by facsimile, or email [cpa.receptionist@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.receptionist@pticom.com) with copy to [atudela@cnmiports.com](mailto:atudela@cnmiports.com) on or before August 8, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Airline Stairs & Ambulift maintenance service and repairs, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport /RFP-009-22”. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, August 16, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

July 15, 2022

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

DATE



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
[www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

### PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGES PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-22

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (“the CPA”) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (“the RFP”) and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBB) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning July 18, 2022, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier’s check, or by credit card. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., August 5th, 2022 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential proposers an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting a proposal, proposers who intend to submit a proposal are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Jack Kileman of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6535. Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Procurement Officer via email at [atudela@cnmiports.com](mailto:atudela@cnmiports.com) on or before close of business, August 8, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs of the three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport /RFP-008-22”. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, August 16, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

July 15, 2022

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

DATE



# Cantor sworn in as assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Carmen G. Cantor was sworn in Friday as Department of the Interior assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs by Secretary Deb Haaland.

“With decades of experience working as a diplomat and on issues critical to island communities, Carmen is ready to lead the department’s mission to support Insular Areas and freely associated states by ensuring that they have the resources and support needed to address their unique needs and mitigate climate-related challenges. Her knowledge will also be indispensable as Interior works with international partners to grow America’s clean energy economy and protect and conserve biodiversity,” said Haaland.

“Growing up in Puerto Rico and having lived in the Federated States of Micronesia, I have a deep appreciation of the unique challenges faced by island and coastal communities,” said Cantor. “I’m thrilled to join the Department of the Interior to tackle these challenges through collaborative efforts across the federal government, territories, freely associated states and our international partners.”



Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, seated, signs the appointment papers of Carmen G. Cantor, who was sworn in Friday as assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs of the Department of the Interior.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Cantor most recently served as U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federated States of Micronesia. Previously, she served in various roles within the Department of State, including as the executive director of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Bureau of International Information Programs, executive director of the Bureau of Counterterrorism, director of the Office of Civil Service Human

Resource Management, and as deputy director for Recruitment, Examination, and Employment.

Cantor also served as director of the Office of Civil Rights for the Foreign Agricultural Service, and as director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity at the Federal Maritime Commission. She earned a B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico and an M.A. from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs carries out the Secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities for the U.S. territories; administers and oversees federal assistance

under the Compact of Free Association; oversees international engagement in support of the department’s mission and U.S. foreign policy; and leads the Ocean, Great

Lakes and Coastal Program, helping to coordinate ocean and coastal programs across the Department’s bureaus and federal, state and territorial partners. (DOI)

ANTONIO S. BORJA  
Chairman  
JAMES M. MEDRIDA  
Vice Chairman  
HENRY H. SANIKOLAS  
Member  
DONALD M. HOFMEIER  
Voting Executive Director

**TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION**  
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

## AGENDA

### I. PRELIMINARY

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

### II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

NO. 2022-01/2022-01(a)

### III. EXECUTIVE SESSION<sup>1</sup>

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



## Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>  
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950  
E-mail Address: [mail@opacnmi.com](mailto:mail@opacnmi.com)  
Phone: (670) 322-6481 | Fax: (670) 322-7812

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: August 1, 2022 Closing Date: August 15, 2022

**POSITIONS:**  
Investigator V

**EXAMINATION NO.**  
OPA-22-003

For more information, please visit our website at [www.opacnmi.com](http://www.opacnmi.com) or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan. Applicants are required to complete the OPA Employment Application form.

## MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

## Employment Opportunity

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), an Equal Opportunity Employer, is looking for aspiring individual to fill the following full-time position:

### FINANCIAL OFFICER

**Closing Date: August 31, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m.**

A detailed description of the position is available at the MPLT Office located at 1222 Capital Hill Road, Capital Hill Saipan or on the website at [www.mplt.gov.mp](http://www.mplt.gov.mp).

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume and a cover letter to:  
MPLT Trustees  
1222 Capital Hill Road  
P.O. Box 501089  
Saipan, MP 96950



# Looking for COVID-19 treatment?

**If you test positive for COVID-19, do either of the following as soon as possible to be screened for eligibility of treatment:**

- Call **(670) 234-8950, ext. 5068**
  - Tinian: **(670) 433-9233**
  - Rota: **(670) 532-9461**
- Or fill out an assessment form online at **[www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting](http://www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting)**

**If you are experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19, call 911.** Severe symptoms include: trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone.



**[www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidSAFE](http://www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidSAFE)**





# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 156Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.comMark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Nancy Pelosi departs Taiwan and leaves behind a precarious crisis

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has left Taiwan. Though the California Democrat didn't stay long, less than 24 hours, the fallout from her visit plunges the Biden administration into a tricky—and arguably unnecessary—period of brinkmanship with China.

In her meeting with Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, Pelosi didn't say anything America hasn't said before about Taiwan, China and democracy. "Today the world faces a choice between democracy and autocracy," the speaker said. "America's determination to preserve democracy here in Taiwan and around the world remains ironclad."

Equally unsurprising was Pelosi's desire to make the trip. In her 35 years in Congress, she has built a reputation as one of Washington's staunchest critics of China's disregard for human rights.

In 1989, she spearheaded a House resolution condemning Beijing's massacre of student demonstrators around Tiananmen Square. Two years later, she went to Beijing and infuriated Chinese Communist Party leaders by displaying a banner in Tiananmen Square with the words, "To Those Who Died for Democracy in China." Over the years, she has spoken out strongly against China's policies toward Tibet and Hong Kong.

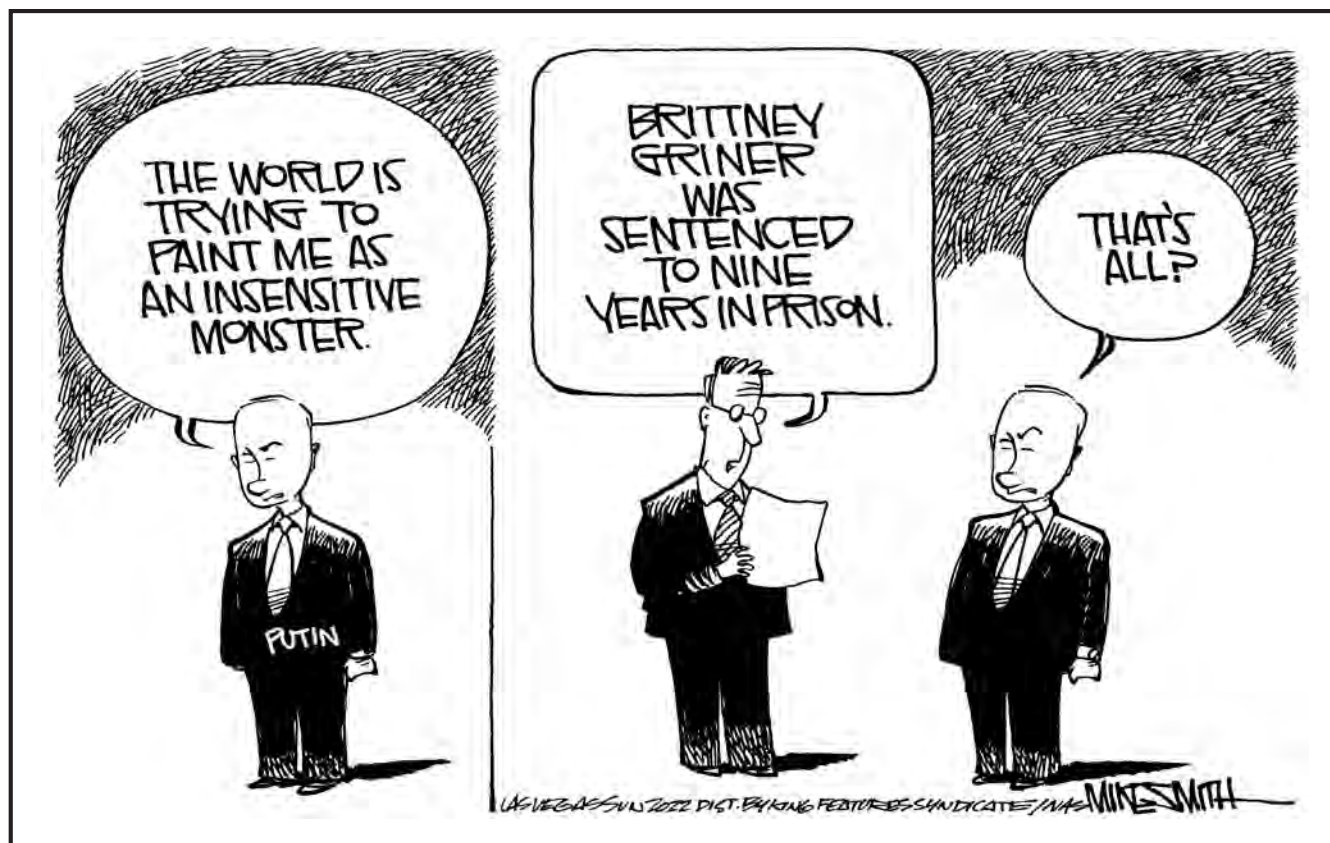
All commendable stances. Nevertheless, timing in geopolitics matters, and this was far from the right time for a trip to Taipei. It stokes a new, precarious crisis for the Biden administration at a moment when the president is careening between other crises—from a flagging economy and doubts about his party's outlook in the midterm elections to Vladimir Putin's five-month war in Ukraine.

China has reacted predictably to Pelosi's excursion, with fiery denunciations and pledges to assert itself militarily in the Taiwan Strait and around the island with live-ammunition exercises. Those drills are slated to begin Thursday, and they could prompt Taiwan to mobilize its forces. It puts both sides on the edge of direct conflict and forces the U.S. to consider what it would do to back up its longtime promise that it would defend Taiwan against military aggression from Beijing.

The U.S. has been here before. In 1995, China was incensed by President Bill Clinton's decision to invite Taiwan's president at the time, Lee Teng-hui, to visit the U.S. The crisis rolled into 1996, when China's firing of missiles near Taiwan's main island prompted Clinton to send U.S. aircraft carriers to the Taiwan Strait. Ultimately, China backed down.

Today, China is demonstrably stronger, militarily and economically. But domestically, it's a sensitive time for Chinese President Xi Jinping. This fall, the party will have to decide whether Xi gets an unprecedented third term. While he needs

See NANCY on Next Page



## How the US demonstrates a renewed focus on the Pacific and Asia

The United States continues to place more and more focus on the Asia Pacific region for a variety of reasons. This is the correct course of action to take because the Pacific Asiatic region is home to the single largest aggregate concentration of wealth on the planet, a variety of natural resources and the world's busiest waterways are found throughout the area, and it is in the strategic interest of the United States to maintain and grow its longstanding credibility.

Examples of American activity throughout the region are abundant. Former U.S. defense secretaries have visited the area over the past several months. The current secretary of defense recently visited Singapore, the current secretary of state has visited the region, President Biden was just in the area, and several senior admirals, generals and top American intelligence officials continue to come through this part of the world.

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi came by as well this past week, stopping in Guam, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Taiwan. While in Taiwan, Speaker Pelosi met with Taiwan's president, lawmakers, and key leaders in microchip manufacturing. During her stay, she touted the notion of upholding democratic values and practices over autocratic values. Pelosi was the highest ranking official to visit Taiwan since House Speaker Newt Gingrich made the trip to the island back in the late 1990s.

### China's government is furious

The Chinese government is furious over this week's visit to Taiwan by Speaker Pelosi. Chinese officials condemned the move. This visit does not bode well for President Xi Jinping because he is facing a variety of increasing domestic pressures as he prepares for the upcoming Communist Party Congress meeting this fall, which is expected to give Mr. Xi a third term.

In response to Speaker Pelosi's trip, Chinese joint military live firing drills took place this weekend on all sides of Taiwan, using over 100 aircraft including bombers, long range weapons, and 10 large surface military vessels. Several missiles were fired with five of those missiles landing in Japan's exclusive economic zone area.

Taiwan's military stood down and did not conduct tactical exercises to prevent possible escalatory situations. At least four American naval warships, including the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ronald Reagan and the amphibious assault ship U.S.S. Tripoli, remain in the immediate area. The drills have caused delays for both shippers and airline companies, while adversely affecting all seven of Taiwan's ports. China took all these actions, plus the suspension of fruit, fish, and soft sand imports to Taiwan as ways to punish the island for receiving Speaker Pelosi.

### One way to interpret these recent events

One way to interpret this week's visit to Taiwan by Speaker Pe-

### RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at [guamaffairs.substack.com](http://guamaffairs.substack.com). For more information, contact Perez at [rickenp7839@gmail.com](mailto:rickenp7839@gmail.com).



losi is that the United States is being unnecessarily provocative. Pelosi's trip comes at a time when Mr. Biden is already working on Pacific Asia security matters that have been focused on relations with South Korea and Japan. Mr. Biden invited both nations to NATO summit meetings and remains committed to further strengthening military-to-military relationships with Australia, and revisiting current military arrangements with the Republic of the Philippines.

Several American allies were upset by Speaker Pelosi's visit because they were not consulted prior to her arrival in Taiwan. The visit represented a direct challenge to China's sovereignty over Taiwan. Many Asian nations have implicitly supported the Chinese government in part because they do not want to upset China, which is both a major trading and military power throughout the region. Taiwan alone has over a \$300 billion trading relationship with China, eclipsing aggregate trade between the United States and Taiwan.

### Why it is complicated

China and the U.S. are too interrelated to incentivize the other to engage in any kind of sustained military escalatory behavior. The Chinese government owns trillions of dollars of U.S. government securities, effectively acting as one of the world's largest creditors to the United States government. Worldwide supply chains, transportation routes running near and through the Taiwan Straits supplying key goods to the United States and elsewhere will be severely restricted if hot war were to commence, causing further price hikes, hardships and uncertainties placed upon millions of people who need ready access to food, clothing, raw goods, and oil.

See US on Next Page



# Summer Senryu Sonnet Rhyme Time

An age-old obsession retirement possession weekend confession

Hurry home to tell with a beach souvenir shell ocean smell  
Dinner at Tender Junction chicken thighs pork butt fish fries  
Dyeing my hair white for Senior Discount lying to you  
Born with a silver spoon full June moon she hums summer tunes

A flock of seagulls scatter across the beach gray sky morning  
Tropical sunset as the sea leaks into dusk sublime shade  
90F humidity nice glasses filled with ice sake made from rice  
How do I know the truth rough and smooth superfine uncouth  
Butterfly breast tattoo morphs into a peacock getting fatter  
Couch potato problems my dog sleeps on top so far gone  
Sister wants to dance waltz or boogie twister midnight mister  
Outbreak of monkey pox global emergency a virus unlocks  
First time Grandma peeks at baby’s cheeks red for weeks.

## Viva Vortex Visible Voracity

A sonnet dedicated to the James Webb Space Telescope, now operating a million miles out in space.

A tanka or a waka poem for all of mankind  
it came out a priori now what else can I do  
forego all the beer, Irish whiskey and red wine  
and dedicate this humble doggerel to you

Here’s to all the galaxies coiled like a snake  
measured in pi its hard to count every zero  
trillions of galaxies mix in our cosmic cake  
cosmic mandalas with black holes on the menu

Spatial spaghetti with shredded stars in situ  
dark energy prevails dark matter in unison

## LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



addressing each and every ion opening uniformly  
some expectations may bring future frustrations

Answers about every inch of all of outer space  
anti-science antagonists may have to acquiesce.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Thanks to the community from the midshipmen to the CNMI

» ‘An experience worth remembering & a story worth telling!’

From July 31 to Aug. 5, a group of midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, got an introductory taste of the history and culture of the CNMI as part of the academy’s Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture Program. It was—for several of these young, future officers—their first time ever leaving the U.S. mainland. With a tight schedule and many moving parts, it took a team/community/village effort to make this a success. On their behalf, I’d like to extend thanks and appreciation by publicly recognizing the following individuals and organizations here on Saipan as well as on Tinian (as well as Guam and the U.S. mainland) whose participation, generosity and professionalism made this an experience worth remembering and a story worth telling:

- The Naval Academy’s International Program Office (MD), David Anderson of Outdoor Focus, LLC, Las Vegas.
- Beth Demapan, Ray Deleon Guerrero, Jr., Eva Chamorita, and Willy Kaitabu.
- Shaun Christian and managers/staff of Star Marianas, Hertz, Maria Aileen Arnold and staff at Islander Car Rental, and Century Hotel.
- Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, Bernadita Palacios, Jose Kiyoshi, Jose Atalig (photographer), and Franklin Mundo.
- National Park Service lead ranger Brooke Nevitt and ranger Natalie Kaneshi (who arranged to grant us access to the American Memorial Park Visitor Center...on a day normally closed to the public!)
- Yumi “Naka” Brundidge, Sydney Takahashi, and crew of Fish-GuyzScuba, Pat Calvo, and staff of Kim’s Food Court & Snack Bar.
- Parker Yobei (executive director), Tony Piailug (master canoe carver and a master navigator), John Castro, Orlando Limes, and all the trades helpers of the Seafaring Traditions Program under the Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture.
- Chen of CK Electronics (across from KFC).



In search of Amelia Earhart at the old Japanese jail. Top, Midshipman Aidan Otero, Walt F.J. Goodridge (guide), Captain Bob Qu. Middle: Midshipmen Carson Hillier, Ava Izenour, and Col. Maria “MJ” Pallotta. Front: Midshipmen Becca Vavasaur, Molly Mangan, Charlie Sewell, and Ellie Dabney.

- JM Guerrero, who (with Pat Calvo assist) gifted each team member a copy of A Pictorial of Saipan, a full-color collector’s item from 1994!
- Fabian Indalecio for graciously sharing his passion and time with us.
- Jayvee Vallejera and Aldwin Batusin (Saipan Tribune) & Zaldy Dandan (Marianas Variety). Thank you!

Walt F.J. Goodridge  
Susupe, Saipan

p.s. You can read the full story with over 100 photos on the blog at: <https://www.discoversaipan.com/blog>

Ramping down the temperature in the Taiwan Strait necessitates the Biden team conveying to Beijing that the “one China” policy remains the guiding principle behind Sino-U.S. relations. Also pivotal: Washington must allay concerns from America’s other Asian allies—Japan, South Korea and Australia, for example—that have been rattled by China’s belligerence in response to Pelosi’s visit. Those allies represent a vital economic and strategic counterpoint to Beijing in the region, and they need reassurance that Biden will keep this latest crisis from burgeoning into something far worse.

So much of what happens next rides on Xi’s actions. He could choose this moment as a springboard for achieving China’s long-standing goal of reunifying Taiwan with Beijing—but through military force. That would be a grave mistake, since it would force the U.S. to equip Taiwan with enough firepower to defend itself. De-escalation is the best and only choice for all entities involved, and Washington should make it a top priority to engineer that cool-down.

## US

From Page 8

Furthermore, the U.S. does not have the wherewithal or the capability to engage in a massive amphibious landing now to support a major war with China on Taiwan’s mainland. Taiwan has 23 million citizens, spends about \$17 billion on its military, and if we were to get into a hot war with China it would be disastrous at the onset and could also lead to nuclear war. China could immediately establish a naval blockade of key Taiwan ports, create no fly zones, and take other measures to completely cut off Taiwan. American security umbrella commitments throughout the rest of the world would also be further strained, enabling countries like Russia to take advantage of an overstretched American military force structure.

## Chamorro once again caught in the middle of a foreign affairs firestorm

What this means for our Mariana Islands chain is that both the U.S. and Chinese will continue to train and prepare for war, which will require greater and greater use by the Pentagon of our ancient Pacific Island chain home.

Contradictions also abound and are illuminated from Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan. She met with the legislature and the president of Taiwan and visited the Human Rights Museum. Yet when she stopped over in Guam, Ms. Pelosi did not address the human political rights violations sponsored by the U.S. government when it comes to Chamorro self-determination. These omissions are glaring and need to be reworked by the American government before folks like Speaker Pelosi demand that democratic principles in the region trump Chinese-style authoritarianism in Taiwan.

## NANCY

From Page 8






to project unyielding strength and defiance in the wake of Pelosi’s visit, he can’t afford to launch China into a full-blown standoff that derails what’s left of global stability and his own country’s economy.

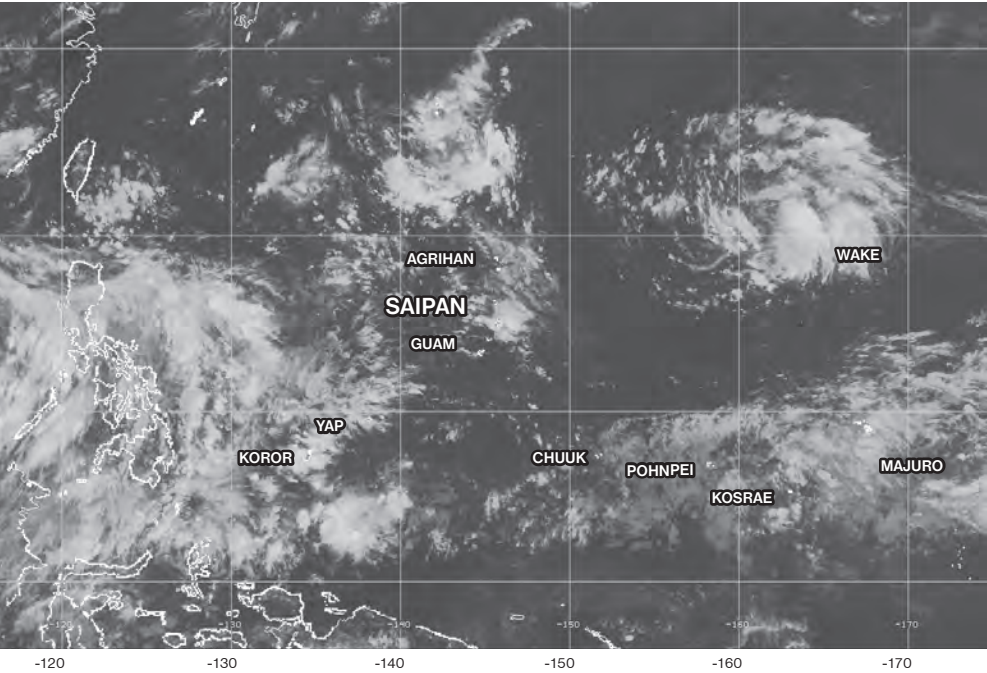
Xi’s best course to take is to not overreact. Pelosi’s visit doesn’t signal any kind of divergence from America’s long-standing “one China” policy, which holds that the U.S. recognizes the Beijing regime as China’s only legal government but merely acknowledges Beijing’s stance that Taiwan is part of China without endorsing it outright.

That policy doesn’t prevent Washington from selling arms to the Taiwanese government so that it can defend itself. It doesn’t stop the U.S. from having robust trade relations with Taiwan, home to the world’s most critical source of advanced microchips. And of course, it doesn’t prevent American political powerhouses such as Pelosi from visiting Taiwan.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite show scattered showers across the Marianas waters this morning. Trade winds are gentle, and combined seas range from 3 to 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	81° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:30 AM	3:04 PM
Tuesday	-	2:30 AM	4:10 PM
Wednesday	-	3:35 AM	5:14 PM
Thursday	-	4:43 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	-	5:50 AM	7:07 PM

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA						SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily	1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN						TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM						GUAM TO ROTA					
LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 51°	
Beijing	Rain	82° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Mostly Sunny	84° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	91° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	58° / 47°	
Miami	Rain	85° / 81°	
New York	Thunderstorms	91° / 78°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	93° / 82°	
Paris	Sunny	86° / 62°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 80°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	96° / 72°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 70°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 58°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 78°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 80°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	92° / 76°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:29 AM	High Tide	2.00	
10:17 AM	Low Tide	-0.04	
5:53 PM	High Tide	1.87	
10:30 PM	Low Tide	1.49	



# Business

## ‘What recession?’: US employers add 528,000 jobs in July

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. employers added an astonishing 528,000 jobs last month despite flashing warning signs of an economic downturn, easing fears of a recession and handing President Joe Biden some good news heading into the midterm elections.

Unemployment dropped another notch, from 3.6% to 3.5%, matching the more than 50-year low reached just before the pandemic took hold.

The economy has now recovered all 22 million jobs lost in March and April 2020 when COVID-19 slammed the U.S.

The red-hot numbers reported Friday by the Labor Department are certain to intensify the debate over whether the U.S. is in a recession.

“Recession—what recession?” wrote Brian Coultan, chief economist at Fitch Ratings. “The U.S. economy is creating new jobs at an annual rate of 6 million—that’s three times faster than what we normally see historically in a good year.”

Economists had expected only 250,000 new jobs last month, in a drop-off from June’s revised 398,000. Instead, July proved to be the

best month since February.

The strong figures are welcome news for the Biden administration and the Democrats at a time when many voters are worried about the economy.

Inflation is raging at its highest level in more than 40 years, and the economy has contracted for two quarters in a row, which is the common—but informal—definition of a recession and does not take

into account a host of other factors economists consider, such as the job picture.

At the White House, Biden credited the job growth to his policies, even as he acknowledged the pain being inflicted by inflation. He emphasized the addition of 642,000 manufacturing jobs on his watch.

“Instead of workers begging employers for work, we’re seeing employers have to

compete for American workers,” the president said.

Biden has boosted job growth through his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package and \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law last year. Republican lawmakers and some leading economists, however, say the administration’s spending has contributed to high inflation.

The president has received some other encouraging eco-

nomics news in recent weeks, as gasoline prices have steadily fallen after averaging slightly more than \$5 a gallon in June.

On Wall Street, stocks closed mostly lower Friday. The good news about job creation was mostly offset by worries that the Federal Reserve will have to keep aggressively raising interest rates to cool the economy and tamp down inflation.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Storms ground US air travelers as airlines cancel flights

NEW YORK (AP)—Tens of thousands of flyers had their travel plans upended Friday after airlines canceled about 1,400 U.S. flights as thunderstorms hit the East Coast. Another 6,300 flights had been delayed by early evening, according to tracking service FlightAware. It was the second straight day of major disruptions and the worst day for cancellations since mid-June. The three major airports in the New York City area and Reagan National Airport outside Washington, D.C., recorded the most cancellations.

#### US agency probes Tesla crashes that killed 2 motorcyclists

DETROIT (AP)—Two crashes involving Teslas apparently running on Autopilot are drawing scrutiny from federal regulators and point to a potential new hazard on U.S. freeways: The partially automated vehicles may not stop for motorcycles. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sent investigation teams to two crashes last month in which Teslas collided with motorcycles on freeways in the darkness. Both were fatal. The agency suspects that Tesla’s partially automated driver-assist system was in use in each. The agency says that once it gathers more information, it may include the crashes in an broader probe of Teslas striking emergency vehicles parked along freeways. NHTSA also is investigating over 750 complaints that Teslas can brake for no reason.

#### Buffett’s firm reports \$44B loss but its businesses thrive

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—

Warren Buffett’s company reported a \$43.76 billion loss in the second quarter as the paper value of its investments plummeted, but Berkshire Hathaway’s many operating companies generally performed well suggesting the overall economy is weathering the pressure from inflation and rising interest rates. Berkshire said Saturday that a largely unrealized \$53 billion decline in the value of its investments forced it to report a loss of nearly \$44 billion, or \$29,754 per Class A share. That is down from \$28.1 billion, or \$18,488 per Class A share, a year ago. The stock prices of three of Berkshire’s biggest investments—Apple, American Express and Bank of America—all fell significantly during the second quarter. But those stocks have all rebounded during the third quarter, meaning Berkshire’s portfolio is already worth more than it was at the end of the quarter.

#### Musk says Twitter deal could move ahead with ‘bot’ info

Elon Musk said Saturday his planned \$44 billion takeover of Twitter should move forward if the company can confirm some details about how it measures whether user accounts are ‘spam bots’ or real people. The billionaire and Tesla CEO has been trying to back out of his April agreement to buy the social media company, leading Twitter to sue him last month to complete the acquisition. Musk countersued, accusing Twitter of misleading his team about the true size of its user base and other problems he said amounted to fraud and breach of contract. Both sides are headed toward an October trial in a Delaware court. (AP)

DFS Group, the world’s leading luxury travel retailer, is preparing to welcome customers into its new and first-ever virtual universe—DFS World—this August and September through the launch of its largest-ever Annual Beauty Campaign.

Titled “Open Up Your Horizons,” the campaign invites customers to discover the limitless possibilities of beauty, from premium skincare and fragrances to new and emerging trends, through a combination of in-store activations as well as a fully interactive, shoppable digital luxury playground.

With over 50 beauty brands in-store such as M.A.C., Dior, and Estée Lauder, shoppers can enjoy exclusive Annual Beauty Campaign promotions from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30. With a purchase of \$150 or more, customers will receive a limited-edition mystery box with a special redemption code to access DFS’ first-ever virtual universe and receive their very own exclusive NFT.

Customers will also have a chance to participate in an



Called “Open Up Your Horizons,” DFS’ new campaign invites customers to discover the limitless possibilities of beauty through a combination of in-store activations as well as a fully interactive, shoppable digital luxury playground.

exciting raffle drawing to win great prizes with any purchase of \$200 or more in Beauty. Dinner for two at Loria Restaurant at the Kensington Hotel Saipan will be offered to customers with purchases over \$3,000 storewide.

With purchases of \$150 or

more, LOYAL T members will enjoy an extra 10% off on their Beauty purchases and have the chance to play the Bubble Catcher to win exclusive beauty gifts or a chance to participate in the raffle.

The safety and wellbeing of customers and employees

is DFS’ highest priority. DFS is taking all available precautionary measures to safeguard people in the store and adhering to health and safety guidelines from the government agencies and public health officials. DFS will continue to adjust accordingly. (PR)

## Twitter breach exposed anonymous account owners

A vulnerability in Twitter’s software that exposed an undetermined number of owners of anonymous accounts to potential identity compromise last year was apparently exploited by a malicious actor, the social media company said Friday.

It did not confirm a report that data on 5.4 million users was offered for sale online as a result but said users worldwide were affected.

The breach is especially worrisome because many Twitter account owners, including human rights activists, do not disclose their identities in their profiles for security reasons that include fear of persecution by repressive authorities.

“This is very bad for many who use pseudonymous Twitter accounts,” U.S. Naval

Academy data security expert Jeff Kosseff tweeted.

The vulnerability allowed someone to determine during log-in whether a particular phone number or email address was tied to an existing Twitter account, thereby revealing account owners, the company said.

Twitter said it did not know how many users may have been affected, and stressed that no passwords were exposed.

“We can confirm the impact was global,” a Twitter spokesperson said via email. “We cannot determine exactly how many accounts were impacted or the location of the account holders.”

Twitter’s acknowledgment in a blog post Friday followed a report last month by the

digital privacy advocacy group Restore Privacy detailing how data presumably obtained from the vulnerability was being sold on a popular hacking forum for \$30,000.

A security researcher discovered the flaw in January, informed Twitter and was paid a reported \$5,000 bounty. Twitter said the bug, introduced in a June 2021 software update, was immediately fixed.

Twitter said it learned about the data sale on the hacking forum from media reports and “confirmed that a bad actor had taken advantage of the issue before it was addressed.”

It said it was directly notifying all account owners that it can confirm were affected.

“We are publishing this update because we aren’t able to

confirm every account that was potentially impacted, and are particularly mindful of people with pseudonymous accounts who can be targeted by state or other actors,” the company said.

It recommended users seeking to keep their identities veiled not add a publicly known phone number or email address to their Twitter account.

“If you operate a pseudonymous Twitter account, we understand the risks an incident like this can introduce and deeply regret that this happened,” it said.

The revelation of the breach comes while Twitter is in a legal battle with Tesla CEO Elon Musk over his attempt to back out from his previous offer to buy San Francisco-based Twitter for \$44 billion. (AP)



# Nation

## Tourists find safety after floods close Death Valley roads

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Hundreds of hotel guests trapped by flash flooding at Death Valley National Park were able to drive out after crews cleared a pathway through rocks and mud, but roads damaged by floodwaters or choked with debris were expected to remain closed into next week, officials said Saturday.

The National Park Service said Navy and California Highway Patrol helicopters have been conducting aerial searches in remote areas for stranded vehicles, but had found none.

However, it could take days to assess the damage—the park near the California-Nevada state line has over 1,000 miles (1,609 kilometers) of roadway across 3.4 million acres (1.3 million hectares).

No injuries were reported from the record-breaking rains Friday. The park weathered 1.46 inches (3.71 centimeters) of rain at the Furnace Creek area. That's about 75% of what the area typically gets in a year, and more than has ever been recorded for the entire month of August.

Since 1936, the only single

day with more rain was April 15, 1988, when 1.47 inches (3.73 centimeters) fell, park officials said.

Nikki Jones, a restaurant worker who is living in a hotel with fellow employees, said rain was falling when she left for breakfast Friday morning. By the time she returned, rapidly pooling water had reached the room's doorway.

"I couldn't believe it," Jones said. "I hadn't seen water rising that fast in my life."

Fearful the water would come into their ground-floor room, Jones and her friends

put their luggage on beds and used towels at the bottom of doorways to keep water from streaming in. For about two hours, they wondered whether they would get flooded.

"People around me were saying they had never seen anything this bad before—and

they have worked here for a while," Jones said.

While their room was spared, five or six other rooms at the hotel were flooded. Carpet from those rooms was later ripped out.

Most of the rain—just over an inch—came in an epic

downpour between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. Friday, said John Adair, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Las Vegas.

The flooding "cut off access to and from Death Valley, just washing out roads and producing a lot of debris," Adair said.

## Dems' climate, energy, tax bill clears initial Senate hurdle

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Democrats pushed their election-year economic bill toward Senate approval early Sunday, starting the sprawling collection of President Joe Biden's priorities on climate, energy, health and taxes on a pathway that the party hopes will end in final congressional passage by the end of this week.

The evenly divided Senate voted Saturday to begin debating the legislation 51-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie and overcoming unanimous Republican opposition. A dwindled version of earlier multi-

trillion-dollar measures that Democrats failed to advance, the package has become a partisan battleground over inflation, gasoline prices and other issues that polls show are driving voters.

The House, where Democrats have a slender majority, could give the legislation final approval next Friday.

"The time is now to move forward with a big, bold package for the American people," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "This historic bill will reduce inflation, lower costs, fight climate change. It's time to move this

nation forward."

Republicans said the measure would damage the economy and make it harder for people to cope with sky-high inflation. They said the bill's business taxes would hurt job creation and force prices upward and urged voters to remember that in November.

"The best way to stop this tax and spend inflationary madness is to fire some of the 50 so they can't keep doing this to your family," said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee.

## A first: African American Marine promoted to 4-star general

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The first African American four-star general in Marine Corps history, Gen. Michael E. Langley, credited his father with telling him to "aim high" and predicted that his promotion on Saturday would have an impact on younger people.

Langley was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and grew up at military bases as his father served in the Air Force. A graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marines in 1985.

"My daddy told me to aim high, so I aimed as high as I could and found the few and

the proud," Langley said during a ceremony at Marine Corps Barracks Washington attended by his father and other family members.

The Marine Corps, which traces its roots to 1775, rejected accepting Black men in its ranks until 1942, a turnabout that followed the attack on the American air base at Hawaii's Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the U.S. entry into World War II.

The American military services were not desegregated until after President Harry



Langley

Truman's order in 1948. Three decades later, the first African American Marine was promoted to one-star general, in 1979.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced in June that President Joe Biden had nominat-

ed Langley for appointment to the grade of general. The promotion came with the assignment of commander of U.S. Africa Command, based in Stuttgart, Germany. The Senate confirmed his appointment on Monday.



### SEA RESCUE

COURTESY OF U.S. COAST GUARD VIA AP

In this image posted on the USCGSoutheast Twitter page, rescue crews safely transfer people from a grounded vessel believed to be carrying migrants, to U.S. Coast Guard ships, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, off the coast of Key Largo, Fla., near the gated community of Ocean Reef. Two people died and five were missing after a boat believed to be carrying migrants attempting to enter the U.S. illegally capsized off the coast of the Florida Keys, the Coast Guard said. Eight people were rescued, the Coast Guard said in a news release Friday. The agency described the boat as a "rustic vessel" that was making an illegal voyage with 15 migrant passengers. It was not immediately clear where the migrants were originally from.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 4 killed in Ohio neighborhood; authorities launch manhunt

**DAYTON, Ohio** (AP)—Four people were fatally shot in an Ohio neighborhood, authorities said Saturday as they searched for a man who is believed to be armed and dangerous. Police in Montgomery County's Butler Township said officers were called to the area shortly before noon Friday on a report of shots fired. Chief John Porter said four victims with gunshot wounds were found at "multiple crime scenes." All were pronounced dead at the scene. Police said they are seeking 39-year-old Stephen Marlow, who they believe fled the area in an SUV. They warned anyone seeing him or the vehicle to call 911 "and not approach him as he is still likely to be armed and dangerous." The Montgomery County coroner's office on Saturday identified the victims as 82-year-old Clyde Knox, 78-year-old Eva Knox, 41-year-old Sarah Anderson and a 15-year-old girl whose name wasn't released.

#### Alex Jones' \$49.3M verdict and the future of misinformation

Alex Jones is facing a hefty price tag for his lies about the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre—\$49.3 million in damages, and counting, for claiming the na-

tion's deadliest school shooting was a hoax—a punishing salvo in a fledgling war on harmful misinformation. But what does this week's verdict, the first of three Sandy Hook-related cases against Jones to be decided, mean for the larger misinformation ecosystem, a social media-fueled world of election denial, COVID-19 skepticism and other dubious claims that the Infowars conspiracy theorist helped build? "I think a lot of people are thinking of this as sort of a blow against fake news, and it's important to realize that libel law deals with a very particular kind of fake news," said Eugene Volokh, a First Amendment professor at the UCLA School of Law. U.S. courts have long held that defamatory statements—falsehoods damaging the reputation of a person or a business—aren't protected as free speech, but lies about other subjects, like science, history or the government, are.

#### Biden tests negative for COVID, isolating until 2nd negative

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Joe Biden tested negative for COVID-19 on Saturday but will continue to isolate at the White House until a second negative test, his doctor said. Dr. Kevin O'Connor wrote in his latest daily update that the president, "in an abundance of caution," will abide by the "strict isolation measures" in place since

his "rebound" infection was detected July 30, pending a follow-up negative result. Biden, 79, came down with the virus a second time three days after he had emerged from isolation from his initial bout with COVID-19, reported on July 21. There have been rare rebound cases documented among a small minority of those, who like Biden, were prescribed the anti-viral medication Paxlovid, which has been proved to reduce the risk of serious illness and death from the virus among those at highest risk.

#### Police say Oklahoma City man killed his 3 children, himself

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—An Oklahoma City man fatally shot his three young children then shot and killed himself early Saturday, according to police. A person jogging or walking called police after spotting the four bodies in a vehicle in a northwest Oklahoma City neighborhood about 7:30 a.m. Saturday, said Capt. Michelle Henderson. Henderson said the man and the children did not live in the neighborhood where they were found, but that they had lived nearby. Henderson said police had been searching for man and his sons since shortly before 4:30 a.m. after learning that he had taken the children and made "concerning statements" about their well-being.



# Asia

## Taiwan: China military drills appear to simulate an attack

**BEIJING (AP)**—Taiwan said Saturday that China's military drills appear to simulate an attack on the self-ruled island, after multiple Chinese warships and aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait following U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei that infuriated Beijing.

Taiwan's armed forces issued an alert, dispatched air and naval patrols around the island, and activated land-based missile systems in response to the Chinese exercises, the Ministry of National Defense said. As of 5 p.m., 20 Chinese aircraft and 14 ships continued to carry out sea and air exercises around the Taiwan Strait, it said.

The ministry said that zones declared by China as no-go areas during the exercises for other ships and aircraft had "seriously damaged the peace." It emphasized that Taiwan's military does not seek war, but would prepare and respond for it accordingly.

China's Ministry of Defense said in a statement Saturday that it had carried out military exercises as planned in the sea and airspace to the north, southwest, and east of Taiwan, with a focus on "testing the capabilities" of its land strike and sea assault systems.

China launched live-fire military drills following Pelosi's trip to Taiwan earlier this week, saying it violated the "one-China" policy. China sees the island as a breakaway province to be annexed by force if necessary, and considers visits to Taiwan by foreign officials as recognizing its sovereignty.

Taiwan's army also said it detected four unmanned aerial vehicles flying in the vicinity of the offshore county of Kinmen on Friday night and fired warning flares in response.

The four drones, which Taiwan believed were Chinese, were spotted over waters around the Kinmen island group and the nearby Lieyu Island and Beiding islet, according to Taiwan's Kinmen Defense Command.

Kinmen, also known as Quemoy, is a group of islands only 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) east of the Chinese coastal city of Xiamen in Fujian province in the Taiwan Strait, which divides the two sides that split amid civil war in 1949.

"Our government & military are closely monitoring China's military exercises & information warfare operations, ready to respond as necessary," Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen said in a tweet.

"I call on the international

community to support democratic Taiwan & halt any escalation of the regional security situation," she added.

The Chinese military exercises began Thursday and are expected to last until Sunday. So far, the drills have included missile strikes on targets in the seas north and south of the island in an echo of the last major Chinese military drills in 1995 and 1996 aimed at intimidating Taiwan's leaders and voters.

Taiwan has put its military on alert and staged civil defense drills, while the U.S. has deployed numerous naval assets in the area.

The Biden administration and Pelosi have said the U.S. remains committed to a "one-China" policy, which recognizes Beijing as the government of China but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei. The administration discouraged but did not prevent Pelosi from visiting.

China has also cut off defense and climate talks with the U.S. and imposed sanctions on Pelosi in retaliation for the visit.

Pelosi said Friday in Tokyo, the last stop of her Asia tour, that China will not be able to isolate Taiwan by preventing U.S. officials from traveling there.

## Taliban: Bomb blast kills 2 people in Kabul

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — A bomb went off Saturday in a minority Shiite neighborhood of the Afghan capital, killing at least two people and wounding 22, a Taliban official said.

According to Khalid Zadrani, the Taliban-appointed spokesman for the Kabul police chief, the explosion occurred in western Kabul's Puli-e Sokhta area. One of the wounded was in critical condition, he added.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, but blame is likely to fall on the Islamic State group, which has targeted Af-

ghanistan's minority Shiites in large-scale attacks in the past.

The regional affiliate of IS, known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, has increased attacks on mosques and minorities across the country since the Taliban seized power last August.

IS, which emerged in eastern Afghanistan in 2014, is seen as the greatest security challenge facing the country's new Taliban rulers. Following their takeover a year ago, the Taliban have launched a sweeping crackdown on IS.

On Friday, a bomb hid-

den in a cart went off near a mosque in another Shiite area of Kabul, killing at least eight people and wounding 18. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for that attack.

On Wednesday, a gunbattle between the Taliban and IS gunmen killed five, including two Taliban fighters, near the Sakhi shrine in the Karti Sakhi neighborhood of the Afghan capital. The attack took place amid preparations for Ashoura, which commemorates the 7th century death in battle of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

Thousands stranded in China city amid COVID lockdown

**BEIJING (AP)**—Some 80,000 tourists are stranded in the southern Chinese beach resort of Sanya, after authorities declared it a COVID-19 hot spot and imposed a lockdown.

The restrictions came into force on Saturday morning, as authorities sought to stem the spread of COVID-19 in the city on tropical Hainan Island. There were 229 confirmed cases on Friday and an additional 129 on Saturday.

China's ruling Communist Party sticks steadfastly to a "zero-COVID" approach that is increasingly at odds with the rest of the world. A recent outbreak in Shanghai spread so widely that authorities locked down the entire city, China's largest, for two months, trapping millions of people and dealing a blow to the national economy.

Railway authorities banned all ticket sales in Sanya while all flights were also canceled

on Saturday. Tourists wanting to depart Sanya have to test negative for the coronavirus on five PCR tests over seven days, authorities said.

Meanwhile, hotels will offer guests a 50% discount during the lockdown period, a city official said during a news briefing.

The lockdown comes during a peak tourism season in Sanya, which is famous for its resorts and beaches.

# World

## Russian forces begin assaults on two eastern Ukraine cities

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)**—Russian forces began an assault Saturday on two key cities in the eastern Donetsk region and kept up rocket and shelling attacks on other Ukrainian cities, including one close to Europe's largest nuclear power plant, Ukraine's military and local officials said.

Both cities of Bakhmut and Avdiivka have been considered key targets of Russia's ongoing offensive across Ukraine's east, with analysts saying Moscow needs to take Bakhmut if

it is to advance on the regional hubs of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk.

"In the Donetsk direction, the enemy is conducting an offensive operation, concentrating its main efforts on the Bakhmut and Avdiivka directions. It uses ground attack and army aviation," the Ukrainian General Staff said on Facebook.

The last Russian strike on Sloviansk was July 30, but Ukrainian forces are fortifying their positions around the city in expectation of

new fighting.

"I think it won't be calm for long. Eventually, there will be an assault," Col. Yuri Bereza, head of the volunteer national guard regiment, told The Associated Press.

Russian shelling killed five civilians and injured 14 others in the Donetsk region in the last day, Donetsk governor Pavlo Kyrylenko wrote Saturday on Telegram, saying two people were killed in Poprosny, and one each in Avdiivka, Soledar and Pervomaiskiy.

## Israel, militants trade fire as Gaza death toll climbs to 24



Rockets fired by Palestinian militants toward Israel, in Gaza City, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022. **AP**

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)**—Israeli airstrikes flattened homes in Gaza on Saturday and Palestinian rocket barrages into southern Israel persisted for a second day, raising fears of another major escalation in the Mideast conflict. Gaza's health ministry said 24 people had been killed so far in the coastal strip, including six children.

The fighting began with Is-

rael's killing of a senior commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group in a wave of strikes Friday that Israel said were meant to prevent an imminent attack.

So far, Hamas, the larger militant group that rules Gaza, appeared to stay on the sidelines of the conflict, keeping its intensity somewhat contained. Israel and Hamas fought a war barely

a year ago, one of four major conflicts and several smaller battles over the last 15 years that exacted a staggering toll on the impoverished territory's 2 million Palestinian residents.

Whether Hamas continues to stay out of the fight likely depends in part on how much punishment Israel inflicts in Gaza as rocket fire steadily continues.

## 17 missing, 121 hurt, 1 dead in fire at Cuban oil facility

**HAVANA (AP)**—A fire set off by a lightning strike at an oil storage facility raged uncontrolled in the Cuban city of Matanzas, where four explosions and flames injured 121 people and left 17 firefighters missing. Cuban authorities said a unidentified body had been found late Saturday.

Firefighters and other specialists were still trying to quell the blaze at the Matanzas Supertanker Base, where the fire began during a thunderstorm Friday night, the Ministry of Energy and Mines tweeted.

Authorities said about 800 people were evacuated from the Dubrocq neighborhood closest to the fire.

The government said it had asked for help from international experts in "friendly countries" with experience in the oil sector.

Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío said the U.S. government had offered technical help to quell the blaze. On his Twitter account, he said the "proposal is in the hands of specialists for the due coordination."

Minutes later, President

Miguel Díaz-Canel thanked Mexico, Venezuela, Russia, Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile for their offers of help. A support flight from Mexico arrived Saturday night.

The official Cuban News Agency said lightning hit one tank, starting a fire, and the blaze later spread to a second tank. As military helicopters flew overhead dropping water on the blaze, dense column of black smoke billowed from the facility and spread westward more than 100 kilometers (62 miles) toward Havana.



## Overdrive

# Toyota Sequoia

## benefits from Tundra's best assets



NATHAN LEACH-PROFFER/  
TOYOTA/TNS

The 2023 Toyota Sequoia is a gas-electric hybrid, one of four hybrid-only models now sold by Toyota.

By LARRY PRINTZ  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It's been 14 years since Toyota offered a new Toyota Sequoia. Given its long life with little change, you can be forgiven if you forgot the model even existed. But with the Land Cruiser leaving the American market, the Sequoia now takes on its role as Toyota's largest and most capable SUV in its U.S. lineup.

Thankfully, it's been completely redesigned for 2023, and as before, its mechanicals are borrowed from the full-size Toyota Tundra pickup. Of course, the Sequoia's lack of change resulted from the Tundra's lack of change in the Tundra, being as they share mechanicals. Once a new Tundra debuted, it was only a matter of time until a new Sequoia arrived.

Given that Toyota had nearly a decade-and-a-half to come up with the next one, you'd be right in assuming that they were going to do something different for the new model, and they have. The 2023 Toyota Sequoia is a gas-electric hybrid, one of four hybrid-only

models now sold by Toyota.

It uses the same iForce Max hybrid powertrain that's used in the Tundra: a 3.5-liter twin-turbo V-6 paired with an electric motor and 10-speed automatic transmission producing 437 horsepower and 583 pound-feet of torque. Rear-wheel drive is standard; all-wheel drive is a \$3,000 extra. Towing is at rated at 9,520 pounds.

It wears a face that takes its cues from the Tundra pickup, lending it a far more modern appearance than the previous model. But you'll notice detail differences among the different trim levels, which start with the entry-level SR5 and ascend through Limited, Platinum, TRD Pro and Capstone. As you might expect, the Capstone gets a chrome-accented grille as it's the most lavish trim level. It also has exclusive lighting, chrome-plated mirrors, power running boards and 22-inch dark chrome alloy wheels, while the TRD Pro, being the off-road champ, gets additional underbody protection and a sizeable light bar.

When it comes to size, the

Sequoia's wheelbase remains unchanged. It's three inches lengthier than before at 208 inches long, 79.6 inches wide, 77.7 inches tall with 8.6 inches of ground clearance for most models.

And while sizable, it's not as large as its Detroit competitors.

Load the Sequoia's three rows and there's less than 12 cubic feet of cargo space. Then there's the second row, which gets less than 40 inches of legroom; it just feels tight for such a big vehicle. You'll also find headroom to be tight as well. Nevertheless, it's designed to carry seven or eight people depending on whether you opt for the second-row bench seat or captain's chairs. Thoughtfully, the third row slides fore or aft by up to 6 inches to give you flexibility for carrying people or cargo.

As is common, to trim levels are very opulent for a mainstream vehicle, with the capstone benefiting from semi-aniline leather with contrast stitching, American walnut veneer and heated and ventilated front and rear seats. The

truck's generous width allows for a wide center console with plenty of space for any number of items, and its unusual design delivers a lot of flexibility for stashing stuff.

The supportive seats are wide and flat and face a horizontal instrument panel that accentuates its already considerable width. It's accentuated by a massive 14-inch touchscreen, with lesser models getting an 8-inch unit. Toyota's new infotainment interface, designed in America, boasts a clear, logical design that's a refreshing change from its previously cumbersome design. It comes with standard wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, as well as Toyota Connected Services with voice commands.

When it comes time to drive, you'll find the Sequoia is up to the task with an independent double-wishbone front suspension with stabilizer bar and twin-tube shock absorbers and a multi-link rear suspension with coil springs and outboard-mounted twin-tube shock absorbers. An adaptive variable suspension and a load-leveling

rear air suspension are optional. TRD models get suspension upgrades including Fox shocks, a front skid plate and 18-inch wheels with 33-inch tires.

When you hit the road, you'll find that the Sequoia is really, really wide, although it's no different in this regard from its domestic competitors from Chevrolet, GMC, Ford and Jeep. But the Sequoia's light steering makes herding it into a lane a constant chore. In contrast, the engine proves to be a pleasant surprise here, with the instant torque of the hybrid helping to alleviate any turbo lag from the V6. And thoughtfully, engineers made this sound like a lusty V8, even though it has two cylinders missing. That said, you'll never miss them; there's more than enough power to make quick work of any driving chore.

The all-wheel-drive test vehicle's EPA rating of 19 mpg city, 22 mpg highway, may not sound so impressive, but it is for this segment. Opt for rear-wheel drive, and you'll get an even more amazing 21 mpg city, 24 mpg highway. By com-

parison, the old model returned 13 mpg city, 19 mpg highway.

The 2023 Toyota Sequoia is a huge improvement from the outgoing model, although it's not at the head of its class. Still, it's good enough to meet most Toyota buyers' expectations, as the company hopes to triple sales with its fresh face and all-new platform. That should be no problem.

### NUTS & BOLTS

#### 2023 Toyota Sequoia

- Base price: \$58,300
- Engine: 3.5-liter twin turbocharged six-cylinder gas/electric hybrid
- Horsepower/Torque: 437/583 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 19/22 mpg (AWD); 21/24 (RWD)
- Length/Width/Height: 208.1/79.6/77.7 inches
- Ground clearance: 8.4-9.1 inches
- Payload: 1,375-1,730
- Cargo capacity: 11.5-86.9 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 9,520 pounds

## Open the window, then start the car?

**Q: Periodically, my 2014 Buick Regal will not crank when I turn the ignition key to start but displays the following message on the instrument panel "Open and close driver window." After I open and close the driver window, the message changes to "Open and close the passenger window." After opening and closing the passenger window, the engine then cranks and runs after turning the ignition switch. What could be the cause?**

**A:** Although this is a symptom of a bad body control module (BCM) let's hope not. The BCM needs constant voltage and if that voltage drops below a given level, the BCM may temporarily lose its settings. Opening and closing the win-

dows resets the BCM and since this only happens occasionally, there may be a separate issue. Ask your mechanic to investigate for voltage drops.

■ ■ ■

**Q: I was somewhat amused by your answer to the question of idling or not in the drive-thru window line. If the line is that long, why not just park the car and walk into the bank or fast food or coffee place? It will both save gas and get you some probably much needed exercise.**

**A:** Are you crazy? Walk? Stand in line among the great unwashed masses? Madness!

■ ■ ■

**Q: Decades ago, I was taught to shift the car into neutral, let the clutch out and wait for the light. This was to**

**avoid wear on the clutch, or maybe it was the throw-out bearing. Over the years, I've formed the habit of shifting to neutral and holding the clutch in for what I anticipate to be a short stop. Am I hurting anything? My 2005 Infinity G35 did well, and my Mini Cooper also. I must say they've made shifting easier.**

**A:** You are not hurting anything. But if you keep the clutch pedal depressed for a long, long, long, long time, you may get a cramp in your calf muscle.

■ ■ ■

**Q: Would you please do a piece on air bag longevity? How long does the air bag mechanism and air bag material last? For example, if I own or purchase a car with 20-plus years on it, will the**

**air bag deploy on impact or will the passengers risk injury? Is there a test that can determine the health of the air bag system?**

**A:** In the early days of the passive restraint (airbag) system, Mercedes asked the same question. The company required owners to have the system checked annually. After 10 years the program was dropped. There was no data to believe that the system would fail to deploy. I know of no procedure to test the airbags other than crashing the car. Do not try this at home.

■ ■ ■

**Q: I have a 2018 Genesis G80 with 19,000 miles. On a trip from Northwest Indiana to Charleston, South Carolina, the steering became**

**MOTORMOUTH**  
By BOB WEBER  
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

**"sticky" on the trip's many mountainous high-speed curves. I had to tug the steering wheel back to keep in my lane. The sticky (technical term) steering wheel is not usually a problem on a regular 90-degree turn but does occur on curves. I plan to have my power steering fluid**

**flushed, but not sure it will help. Any ideas to solve this?**

**A:** Although there could be a steering or suspension problem, this notchy behavior is usually due to a problem with the rack-and-pinion. Flushing fluid sometimes helps but replacing the rack-and-pinion assembly is probably the solution.



# Life & Style

## Anne Heche in hospital, 'stable' after fiery car crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Anne Heche was in the hospital Saturday following an accident in which her car smashed into a house and flames erupted, a spokeswoman said.

"Anne is currently in stable condition. Her family and friends ask for your thoughts and prayers and to respect her privacy during this difficult time," Heather Duffy

Boylston, Heche's friend and podcast partner, said in a statement.

Heche's speeding car came to a T-shaped intersection and ran off the road and into the

house in the Mar Vista section of Los Angeles' west-side shortly before 11 a.m. Friday, Los Angeles police Officer Tony Im said.

The car came to a stop inside the two-story house and started a fire that took nearly 60 firefighters more than an hour to douse, the Los Angeles Fire Department said.

Television news video showed a blue Mini Cooper Clubman, badly damaged and burned, being towed out of the home, with a woman sitting up on a stretcher and struggling as firefighters put her in an ambulance.

No other injuries were re-



Heche

ported, and no arrests have been made. Police detectives are investigating.

A native of Ohio, Heche first came to prominence on the NBC soap opera "Another World" from 1987 to 1991. She won a Daytime Emmy Award for the role.

In the late 1990s she became one of the hottest actors in Hollywood, a constant on magazine covers and in big-budget films. She co-starred with Johnny Depp in 1997's "Donnie Brasco"; with Tommy Lee Jones in 1997's "Volcano"; with Harrison Ford in 1998's "Six Days, Seven Nights"; with Vince Vaughn

and Joaquin Phoenix in 1998's "Return to Paradise," and with an ensemble cast in the original 1997 "I Know What You Did Last Summer."

Her relationship with Ellen DeGeneres from 1997 to 2000 heightened her fame and brought immense public scrutiny.

In the fall of 2000 soon after the two broke up, Heche was hospitalized after knocking on the door of a stranger in a rural area near Fresno, California. Authorities said she had appeared shaken and disoriented, and spoke incoherently to the residents.

In a memoir released the following year, "Call Me Crazy," Heche talked about her lifelong struggles with mental health and a childhood of abuse.

## Banksy painting sprayed in West Bank resurfaces in Tel Aviv



A painting by the secretive British graffiti artist Banksy that was mysteriously transferred from the occupied West Bank is revealed in Urban Gallery in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022.

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—A long-lost painting by the British graffiti artist Banksy has resurfaced in a swank art gallery in downtown Tel Aviv, an hour's drive and a world away from the concrete wall in the occupied West Bank where it was initially sprayed.

The relocation of the painting—which depicts a slingshot-toting rat and was likely intended to protest the Israel occupation—raises ethical questions about the removal of artwork from occupied territory and the display of such politically-charged pieces in

radically different settings from where they were created.

The painting initially appeared near Israel's separation barrier in the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem and was one of several works created in secret around 2007. They employed Banksy's trademark absurdist and dystopian imagery to protest Israel's decades-long occupation of territories the Palestinians want for a future state.

Now it resides at the Urban Gallery in the heart of Tel Aviv's financial district, surrounded by glass and steel

skyscrapers.

"This is the story of David and Goliath," said Koby Abergel, an Israeli art dealer who purchased the painting, without elaborating on the analogy. He said the gallery was simply displaying the work, leaving its interpretation to others.

The Associated Press could not independently confirm the authenticity of the piece, but Abergel said the cracks and scrapes in the concrete serve as "a fingerprint" that proves it is the same piece that appears on the artist's website.

The 70-kilometer (43-mile)

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Judge: Kevin Spacey must pay \$30M to 'House of Cards' makers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Thursday ruled that Kevin Spacey and his production companies must pay the makers of "House of Cards" nearly \$31 million because of losses brought on by his 2017 firing for the sexual harassment of crew members. The ruling from Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mel Red Recana gives the force of law to the \$30.9 award in favor of MRC and other companies that produced the Netflix series by a private arbitrator who heard the case against Spacey. Recana wrote that Spacey and his attorneys "fail to demonstrate

that this is even a close case" and "do not demonstrate that the damages award was so utterly irrational that it amounts to an arbitrary remaking of the parties' contracts." "We are pleased with the court's ruling," MRC attorney Michael Kump said in an email to The Associated Press.

### Keanu Reeves takes rare TV role in historical thriller

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Keanu Reeves will star in a TV adaptation of "The Devil in the White City," the bestselling nonfiction thriller about ambition, a killer and the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Reeves will portray Daniel H. Burnham, an architect "try-

ing to make his mark on history" with his designs for the fair, Hulu said in announcing the limited series Thursday. The other central role, that of convicted murderer Dr. H.H. Holmes, has yet to be cast, the streaming service said. Erik Larson's novelistic-style account of the fair—formally called the World's Columbian Exposition—was published in 2003. The fair's nickname was White City, stemming from the color of many of its building exteriors. Various Hollywood players circled the book, and Leonardo DiCaprio acquired the rights in 2010, with the aim of starring in a big-screen version as Holmes. Martin Scorsese reportedly was set to direct.

## Father lies regularly to keep kids in line

**DEAR ABBY:** My parents are divorced. My father, who I'm sure loves me in his own way, is super controlling and manipulative. He wasn't nice to my older siblings, either. He constantly lied and blamed others for his abusive behavior, which made me hate them. He constantly claimed Mom cheated on him and said my siblings were horrible kids.

When I was a child, I believed him. But as I grew older, I started seeing through his lies. He still tries to do it. He also uses his approval as a weapon to make me feel guilty and do what he wants. For example, he's very religious, and he told me often that if I wasn't religious, he'd stop loving me just as easily as he loves me.

I just want to live my life, but I know if I do, he'll cut me off and keep my younger siblings from communicating with me. I love them, and knowing him, he'll tell them lies about me the way he did with me about my older siblings. He wants me to marry someone from our religion, but I have fallen in love with someone who doesn't have our same points of view. This person is aware of the situation, but eventually, if things progress, my dad will find out. What should I do?

**LOST GIRL IN VERMONT**

**DEAR GIRL:** If you still live under your father's roof, you will have to abide by his "house rules" for now. When you become independent—which I strongly urge you to do—

you can then consider which religion meets your needs and whom you want to marry. No one should decide these things for you. I assume you already have a strong relationship with your younger siblings. Keep working on it and your father will have a harder time making them think ill of you in the future.

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have two friends who are sisters. They text me every day throughout the day, sharing every thought and every little thing that happens to them. Also, they constantly invite me over to their homes and try to manipulate me into coming over. One does it by telling me her daughter loves me and wants me to come for dinner; the other uses other tactics of a similar nature—like her dog misses me.

None of the other people in my life do this. We all have lives to live—some busier than others. But with the others, we see each other on birthdays, holidays and other celebrations where we all get together, visit and catch up. This everyday texting is getting on my nerves to the point where some days I don't respond to either of them.

I have tried subtly and blatantly to tell them to stop, but to no avail. What else do I need to say or do? I have known both of these people for 40 years, and it seems they only "hear" me when I flip out on them—something I'm trying to change about myself.

**HOUNDED IN CONNECTICUT**

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR HOUNDED:** It would not be "flipping out" to firmly tell these needy sisters you do not have time to text with them on a daily basis because you are a busy person and being bombarded is distracting. You also do not have to visit anyone because their dog or their child misses you. Set some ground rules and see them when it's convenient for you—say, once a month (if that). Once the pressure is off, you might enjoy them more.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



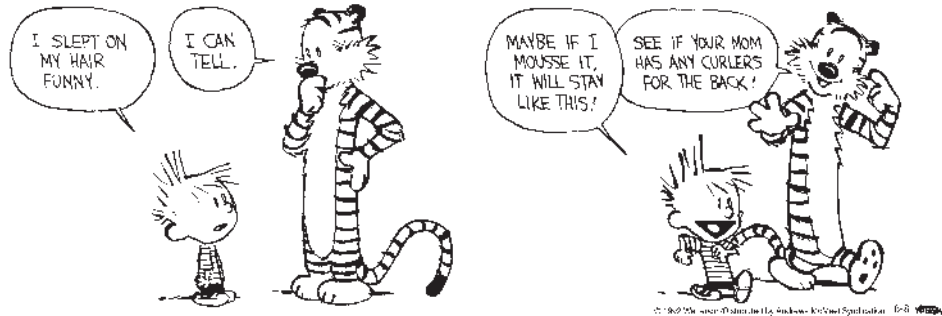
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

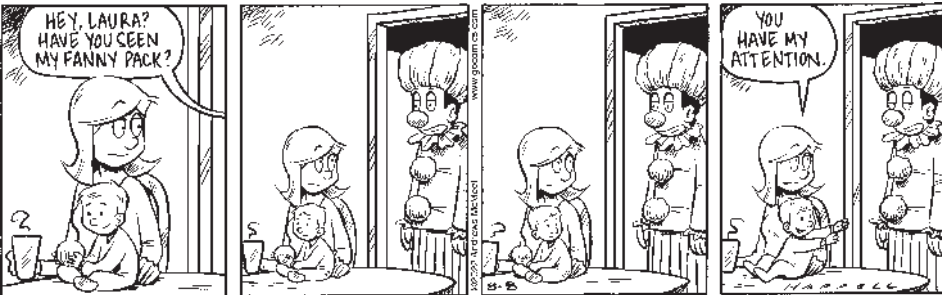


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

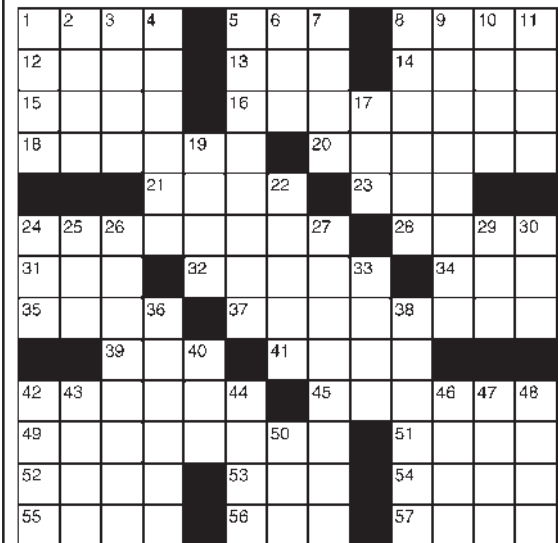
1 Pt. of a sentence  
5 Skirt edge  
8 Some Gls  
12 Nest setting  
13 Commotion  
14 Inter —  
15 Admin. aide  
16 Prepared  
18 Fake fireplace fixture  
20 Baker Street sleuth  
21 Competent  
23 Roman 151  
24 Started  
28 Editor  
31 Prior night  
32 Wrap up by  
34 Martini ingredient  
35 Painter Chagall  
37 Coexisted  
39 Chinese chairman

**DOWN**

1 Men-only  
2 — Major  
3 Porgy's love  
4 Air travel fatigue  
5 Negotiating a price  
6 Tokyo, once  
7 Closet invader  
8 Spanish dish  
9 Pink wading bird  
10 Funny — (2003 Derby winner)  
11 Utters some  
17 Sinbad's bird  
19 Slender wood-wind  
22 Fund  
24 Jewel  
25 Eggs  
26 Little home wreck-ers?  
27 Amassed  
29 Diarist  
30 "Life of Pi" director  
33 New Mexico resort  
36 Frolic  
38 Most recent  
40 Tin Man's need  
42 Pre-weekend yell  
43 Actor's quest  
44 Driver of "Logan Lucky"  
46 Sicilian peak  
47 Thames town  
48 Gulleys  
50 Conceit

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

**Last Friday's Answer 08/8**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Casey Cott, 30; Countess Vaughn, 44; Joely Collins, 50; Dustin Hoffman, 85.

**Happy Birthday:** You'll thrive once you put a plan in place. Don't let others intervene or pressure you to take a path that doesn't suit your needs. Look for peace of mind, and you'll figure out what matters most. Being patient and following your heart will show others you can't be bought or manipulated. A healthy lifestyle will encourage success. Your numbers are 6, 18, 22, 26, 32, 34, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Put your cash in a safe place. Your generosity will result in financial trouble. Don't make promises you can't keep, and don't lead someone astray to get your way. Focus on responsibilities, gaining respect and getting what you want.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Invest in what's important to you. Keep spending at a minimum and pay attention to detail. A change you make will disrupt a relationship with someone counting on you for support. Honesty is the best approach when a change is what you need and want.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Listen to the input offered before making a decision that can affect close relationships. You don't have to bend the rules or change your beliefs because someone takes a different path. Focus on what's important, and give others the same privilege.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't risk your health and well-being for financial gain. Take time to consider what's in your best interest before letting anyone take advantage

of your soft heart and friendly nature. Your memory will help you make the right decision. **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Lean into whatever you want to achieve and give it your all. Gather information and decide what's best for you. Don't let the changes others make hold you back. A high-energy approach to whatever you do will attract like-minded people.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Money and emotions will clash, causing impulse purchases or the need to pay to make an impression. Use intelligence and sort through your feelings before you make promises you'll live to regret. Concentrate on self-improvement, not trying to change others.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't trust your peers to cover for you. Take care of responsibilities before you move on to enjoyable pastimes. You may want to spend time with someone you are enamored with, but don't let your duties suffer due to personal concerns.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Change is inevitable. Don't hesitate; jump in and take control. You stand a better chance of coming out on top if you are part of the solution, not the problem. Let your actions speak for you, and you'll make a statement.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Size up what's happening before you make a move. Too much of anything will be your downfall. Keep your emotions hidden until you know what others think or plan to do next. Make personal growth and health your priorities.

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Spend more time nurturing what's important to you. Fixing up your surroundings to please yourself and your loved ones will make a difference in how you feel and how others respond to you. Romance is on the rise.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Stabilization is the name of the game. Refuse to let what others do upset your day. Focus on what's important to you, and take responsibility for your actions. Offer kind words and good luck to others, and go about your business.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Overreacting will damage your reputation. Look at your choices and change what benefits you financially or raises your profile. Let someone you care about know how you feel with words and actions. Commitment and romance are favored.

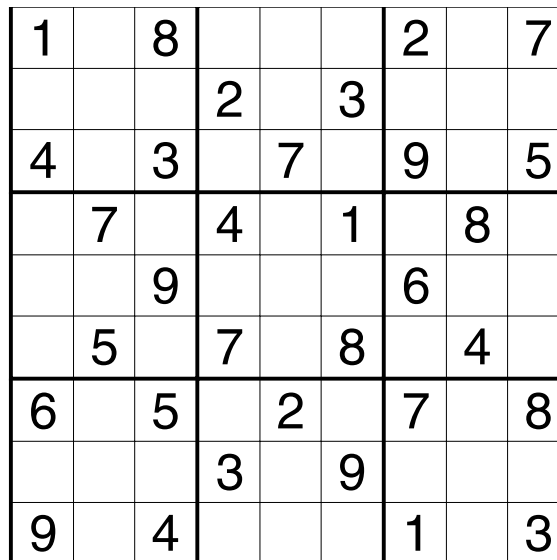
**Birthday Baby:** You are enthusiastic, curious and persistent. You are visionary and bountiful.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



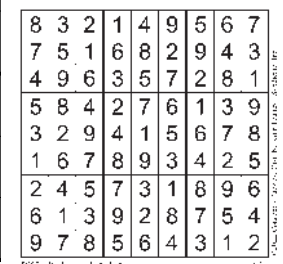
Difficulty Level ★

8/08

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JAMES CAAN (1940-2022)

Solution: 9 letters



© 2022 Andrew McKelvey Syndicate www.wonderword.com 8/8  
Apples, Bread, Chicken, Citrus, Cookies, Corn, Cream, Crimson, Crocus, Custard, Dessert, Distinct, Dried, Expensive, Farm, Floral, Fragrance, Herbs, Iran, Morocco, Psella, Pasta, Perfume, Pilaf, Pinch, Plant, Potato, Powder, Recipe, Rice, Risotto, Sall, Sauce, Savory, Seafood, Seasoning, Soak, Soups, Spice, Steep, Sweet, Taste, Teas, Thread, Water, Wild  
Last Friday's Answer: Budgets  
Treasures 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 48 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.



# WNBA's Griner convicted at drug trial, sentenced to 9 years

**KHIMKI, Russia** (AP)—U.S. basketball star Brittney Griner was convicted Thursday in Russia of drug possession and smuggling and was sentenced to nine years behind bars in a politically charged case that could lead to a high-stakes prisoner exchange between Washington and Moscow.

The 31-year-old Griner, a two-time U.S. Olympic champion and an eight-time all-star with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, listened with a blank expression as an interpreter translated the verdict by Judge Anna Sotnikova, but her lawyers said later she was "very upset." Griner also was fined 1 million rubles (about \$16,700).

U.S. President Joe Biden denounced as "unacceptable" the verdict and sentence, which came amid soaring tensions between the U.S. and Russia over Ukraine.

"I call on Russia to release her immediately so she can be with her wife, loved ones, friends and teammates," Biden said, adding that he would continue to work to bring home Griner and Paul Whelan, an American imprisoned in Russia on an espionage conviction.

Outside court, the U.S. Embassy's charge d'affaires Elizabeth Rood called the outcome "a miscarriage of justice."

Griner, recognized as one of the greatest players in WNBA history, has been detained since Feb. 17 after police said they found vape cartridges containing cannabis oil in her luggage upon landing at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. She was returning to Russia, where she has competed since 2014.

As she was led out of court, Griner said: "I love my family."

The nine-year sentence was close to the maximum of 10 years that Griner had faced under the charges. Most Russians possessing small quantities of drugs get at most five years in prison, lawyers said.

Defense attorney Maria Blagovolina told reporters later that Griner was "very upset, very stressed. She can hardly talk. It's a difficult time for her."

Before the unusually swift verdict was reached, an emotional Griner apologized to her family, teammates and the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, where she plays in the WNBA offseason, "for my mistake that I made and the embarrassment that I brought on them."

With her voice cracking, she added: "I hope in your ruling it does not end my life."

Griner has 10 days to ap-



WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner is escorted from a court room after a hearing, in Khimki just outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022. AP

peal, and her lawyers say they expect a hearing in Moscow regional court next week. Asked if Griner could ask for pardon from President Vladimir Putin, Blagovolina said they would consider every possibility, but the lawyers said they were not part of any discussions about a prisoner swap.

Griner's agent Lindsay Kagawa Colas said the sentence "was severe by Russian legal standards and goes to prove what we have known all along, that Brittney is being used as a political pawn." She added that she supported Biden's efforts "to get a deal done."

A conviction is usually needed before arranging a prisoner exchange and also allows Griner to apply for a pardon. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said last month the "necessary judicial procedures" must be completed before other steps can be taken.

The disclosure in July that the U.S. government was seeking a prisoner swap involving Griner reflected the growing pressure on the Biden administration to do more to bring her home. The U.S. State Department had earlier declared Griner to be "wrongfully detained" — a charge that Russia has sharply rejected.

When she took the stand July 7, Griner said: "I would

like to plead guilty on the charges against me. But I had no intention of breaking any Russian law." She added that she brought the vape canisters into Russia because she had packed in haste for her flight.

Griner also described a confusing scene while being held at the airport, saying an interpreter provided by authorities translated only a fraction of what was being said to her and that officials told her to sign documents without explaining what they were. She also said she was not informed of her rights.

Her lawyers introduced evidence that Griner was using the medicinal cannabis for chronic pain and injuries sustained during her career and included a letter from her doctor. Griner testified she was aware cannabis oil was outlawed in Russia and had not intended to break the law or "plan to smuggle anything into Russia."

Griner's case and her nearly six months behind bars have raised strong criticism among her supporters in the United States, including her wife, Cherelle, that Biden was not doing enough to win her freedom.

Griner sent a personal appeal to Biden, and more than 1,100 Black female leaders urged the administration to "make a deal to get Brittney back home swiftly and safely

and to meet with Brittney's wife Cherelle immediately." Biden later called Cherelle Griner "to reassure her that he is working to secure Brittney's release as soon as possible," the White House said July 6.

Cherelle Griner, who also spoke with Vice President Kamala Harris, later said she was "grateful to the both of them for the time they spent with me and for the commitment they expressed to getting BG home," using her wife's initials.

On July 27, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington has offered a deal to Russia aimed at bringing home Griner and Whelan in a sharp reversal of previous policy. Details of the proposal were not announced, though a person familiar with the matter said the U.S. has offered to trade convicted Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout for Whelan and Griner. The person insisted on anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Russian media have speculated repeatedly that Griner could be swapped for Bout, nicknamed "the Merchant of Death," who is serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. after being convicted of conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens and providing aid to a terrorist organization. Russia has agitated for Bout's release for years.

The severity of Griner's

sentence could give Russia leverage in a swap by increasing pressure on Washington to negotiate her release.

"I think that the harsher the sentence, the more pressure there will be on the Biden administration to make a deal, and obviously they like leveraging that pressure," Tom Firestone, a lawyer who formerly served as the resident legal adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, said of the Russians before the sentence was imposed.

Even with U.S.-Russia relations at a low point, the two countries managed to arrange a swap in April of Trevor Reed, a former U.S. Marine detained in Russia, for Konstantin Yaroshenko, a Russian pilot and convicted drug trafficker serving a 20-year prison sentence in Connecticut.

Griner's detention was made public only after Russian troops moved into Ukraine, as relations between Russia and the United States hit new lows after Washington led the West in bringing sanctions against Moscow.

Her plight has been highlighted by supporters at home, including top athletes, especially after little news emerged about her initial weeks of detention in Russia, where she had limited access to U.S. diplomats. It was only in May that the State Department designated her as wrongfully detained, mov-

ing her case under its Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, effectively the government's chief hostage negotiator.

At the ESPY Awards last month, soccer star Megan Rapinoe referred to Griner as "a political prisoner," and tennis great Billie Jean King said, "First, bring BG home. Gotta do that."

NBA Finals MVP Stephen Curry wore Griner's jersey under his track suit at the awards show and urged "the entire global sports community to continue to stay energized on her behalf."

Griner, a 6-foot-9 center, has 12 of the 15 regular season dunks in WNBA history and set the single-year record for blocks with 129 in 2014. She led the league in scoring twice. She was a two-time Associated Press college basketball player of the year and led Baylor to a 40-0 season and the 2012 NCAA title. She was the No. 1 pick by Phoenix in the 2013 draft.

Her teammates watched Thursday's trial on television in a locker room in Connecticut, where they were to play an evening game. The game was to be preceded by a 42-second moment of silence — 42 is Griner's number.

The commissioners of the WNBA and NBA called the verdict "unjustified and unfortunate, but not unexpected."



# Scherzer, Lindor help Mets sweep DH vs Braves



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—Max

Scherzer tied a season high with 11 strikeouts over seven innings and the New York Mets beat the sloppy Atlanta Braves 6-2 Saturday night to complete a doubleheader sweep.

Francisco Lindor had three hits and three RBIs as New York took the opener 8-5, and the Mets stretched their NL East lead to 5 1/2 games.

Mets fans taunted the second-place Braves in the ninth inning of Game 2 by performing the tomahawk chop, a tradition at games in Atlanta despite complaints from some Native American groups that the chant is degrading.

Pete Alonso had three singles, including one with the bases loaded to match Yankees star Aaron Judge for the major league lead with 93 RBIs. The Mets swept their second doubleheader against Atlanta this season and opened their biggest division lead since June 21. They are 11-3 in seven twinbills this year, including four sweeps.

New York (69-39) is 30 games over .500 for the first time since finishing 97-65 in 2006.

Lindor reached twice in the late game and scored on shortstop Dansby Swanson's throwing error as Max Fried (10-4) was nearly injured on the play.

Scherzer (8-2) allowed four hits in his 198th career win. The three-time Cy Young Award winner pulled into a tie for 14th place on the career strikeouts list with former Tigers teammate Justin Verlander at 3,140.

Lindor had three hits in the first game, including an RBI single during a two-run first inning against Jake Odorizzi (4-4). His double stretched New York's edge to 5-0.

Spot starter David Peterson (6-2) helped New York's seventh doubleheader get off to a good start by allowing three hits in 5 1/3 innings for his third scoreless start this year.

## Dodgers 8, Padres 3

In Los Angeles, Will Smith homered and drove in three runs, and Los Angeles continued to sprint away from the rest of the NL West with its seventh consecutive victory.

Max Muncy hit a three-run homer for the Dodgers, who boosted their division lead to a season-high 14 1/2 games with their 16th win in the last 18 meetings with second-place San Diego.

The Dodgers have won six straight series against the Padres. LA has outscored San Diego 16-4 in back-to-back big victories at Chavez Ravine.



New York Mets' Francisco Lindor (12) and Starling Marte (6) celebrate after they defeated the Atlanta Braves in the first game of a baseball doubleheader, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, in New York.

The Dodgers also improved the majors' best record to 74-33 with their 14th win in 17 games since hosting the All-Star Game last month.

San Diego is 1-3 since adding Juan Soto, Brandon Drury and Josh Bell to the lineup at Tuesday's trade deadline.

## Cardinals 1, Yankees 0

In St. Louis, Jordan Montgomery blanked his old teammates over five innings and Nolan Arenado drove in the lone run as St. Louis grabbed sole possession of the NL Central lead by handing New York its season-high fourth straight loss.

Making his first start for St. Louis since being acquired at the trade deadline earlier in the week, Montgomery (4-3) was taken out after five innings for precautionary reasons due to cramping. He gave up two hits and a walk with one strikeout.

Four St. Louis pitchers held the Yankees to just two hits — singles in the first and third. Only two runners reached second base. Giovanni Gallegos pitched 1-2-3 ninth inning to earn his 11th save, striking out the final two hitters. St. Louis has won a season-high six straight games, and eight of nine.

## Reds 7, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, José Barrero hit his first two major league home runs and Cincinnati dropped Milwaukee into second place in the NL Central.

Joey Votto and Donovan Solano each had a solo homer for the Reds, who hadn't scored more than three runs since an 8-2 win July 30 over Baltimore.

Milwaukee fell a game behind St. Louis in the division race.

With the Reds leading 2-0 in the fourth inning, Barrero

launched a two-run homer off starter Aaron Ashby (2-10). The third-year shortstop added a solo shot in the sixth off reliever Hoby Milner.

## Phillies 11, Nationals 5

In Philadelphia, Rhys Hoskins homered in the first inning for the third straight game — the first Philadelphia player to do it since at least 1900 — in a rout of Washington.

J.T. Realmuto and Matt Vierling also went deep for the surging Phillies, who have won nine of 10 to move a season-best 11-games over .500. Realmuto also tripled and drove in three runs and Jean Segura had three hits for Philadelphia, which will try for a four-game series sweep of the Nationals on Sunday.

Luke Voit homered and Lane Thomas had three hits and an RBI for Washington, which is an MLB-worst 36-73. Patrick Corbin (4-16) lost his sixth straight decision.

## Orioles 6, Pirates 3

In Baltimore, Ryan McKenna hit a two-run double in the fifth inning, and Baltimore won its fifth straight game.

Oneil Cruz hit a two-run homer for Pittsburgh in the fourth to cut an early Baltimore lead to one, but McKenna came through as a pinch-hitter the following inning, putting the Orioles up 5-2 with a big two-out hit to left.

Baltimore, which entered the day 1 1/2 games out of the final wild card in the American League, has now won 21 of its last 28 games. The Orioles (56-51) have already reached their highest win total in five years.

## Twins 7, Blue Jays 3

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco had a pair of two-out RBIs and Jose Miranda homered for Minnesota, which beat

Toronto behind a stellar bullpen performance.

All-Star Luis Arraez went 3 for 5 with an RBI for the first-place Twins, who kept their two-game lead on Cleveland in the AL Central.

Arraez doubled twice and scored on both of Polanco's clutch hits — a single in the third inning off Blue Jays starter Mitch White (1-3) and a double in the fifth after White was replaced by Tim Lincecum.

## Royals 5, Red Sox 4

In Kansas City, rookie Nick Pratto hit a game-ending home run in the ninth inning, giving Kansas City a win over Boston.

Pratto blasted a two-out, 3-2 changeup from Garrett Whitlock (2-2) an estimated 424 feet to center field for his second career homer and first at Kauffman Stadium.

The Royals began and ended the game with homers. MJ Melendez hit his second leadoff homer of the series, a 434-foot drive to right field for his 12th longball this season. Kyle Isbel also homered for Kansas City. Dylan Coleman (3-1) retired the Red Sox in order in the ninth.

## Mariners 2, Angels 1, 1st game

## Angels 7, Mariners 1, 2nd game

In Seattle, Reid Detmers pitched seven smooth innings, Mickey Moniak hit his second home run in three days and Los Angeles defeated Seattle to split their doubleheader.

David Fletcher homered and drove in three runs for the Angels, who dropped the opener 2-1 as Ty France hit a two-run homer and George Kirby (3-3) struck out eight over six innings for the Mariners.

In the nightcap, Moniak connected off Chris Flexen (7-9) for his third major league homer. The top pick in the 2016 draft was acquired from Philadelphia at Tuesday's trade deadline in a deal for pitcher Noah Syndergaard.

Luis Torrens homered off Detmers (4-3), who permitted six hits and struck out seven.

## Tigers 9, Rays 1

In Detroit, Harold Castro drove in two runs and scored twice as Detroit ended a three-game skid with a win over All-Star Shane Bieber on Lou Whitaker Night.

Playing in front of their first sellout crowd since opening day, the Tigers won for the fifth time in 16 games on the night they retired Whitaker's No. 1. Garrett Hill (2-3) picked up the win, allowing one run in 5 1/3 innings.

McClanahan (10-5) gave up four runs on six hits in seven innings.

## Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Ryan McMahon hit a tiebreaking homer in the ninth, Antonio Senzatela threw seven quality innings and Colorado rallied for a win over Arizona.

McMahon drilled a high fastball from Ian Kennedy (4-5) into the left-center seats for the game-deciding drive. The hard liner left the ballpark in a hurry, just clearing the wall to the left of the 413-foot sign. It was his 10th homer of the season.

The Rockies rallied twice from one-run deficits in the late innings. Colorado rookie Elehuris Montero hit the first homer of his big league career to tie it 2-all in the eighth.

Senzatela gave up two runs on nine hits over seven innings, striking out two and walking none. Carlos Estévez (3-4) worked a scoreless eighth, and Daniel Bard handled the ninth for his 23rd save in 25 opportunities.

## Rangers 8, White Sox 0

In Arlington, Texas, Dane Dunning allowed one hit in seven dominant innings against his former team for his first win since April, and Adolis García drove in five runs as Texas shut out Chicago.

Dunning (2-6) struck out six and walked one, winning for the first time in 16 starts since a 3-1 victory April 30 over Atlanta. Chicago traded the right-hander to Texas in a December 2020 deal for pitcher Lance Lynn.

Ezequiel Duran hit Michael Kopech's first pitch of the third into the Rangers' bullpen in right-center for a home run. With two outs, two walks and a single by Corey Seager

loaded the bases for García. He lined a 3-1 pitch for a two-run single and a 3-0 lead.

## Guardians 4, Astros 1

In Cleveland, Cal Quantrill tossed six scoreless innings and Amed Rosario had a two-run single, lifting Cleveland over AL West-leading Houston.

All-Star José Ramírez added two hits and an RBI, and Andres Gimenez and Myles Straw had two hits apiece. The Guardians pulled within 1 1/2 games of first-place Minnesota in the AL Central with the combined six-hitter.

Quantrill (8-5) struck out four with a lone walk, extending his winning streak to four and remaining undefeated at Progressive Field.

Cleveland took a 4-0 lead with three runs in the second off Luis García (8-8), highlighted by Rosario's liner to center that drove in Straw and Gimenez. Ramírez doubled home Rosario in the first for his 87th RBI.

## Giants 7, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Calif., LaMonte Wade Jr. and J.D. Davis homered on consecutive pitches in the sixth inning, Joey Bart also connected, and slumping San Francisco beat Oakland.

Carlos Rodón (10-6) allowed one run over 5 1/3 innings for his team-leading 10th victory as the Giants won for the fourth time in 16 games since the All-Star break.

Wade, who doubled and scored in the second, hit his fourth home run of the season off Adam Oller (1-5) following Bart's leadoff single.

Davis, acquired earlier in the week from the Mets for Darin Ruf, followed with a pinch-hit shot to center on the first pitch from Kirby Snead for his second home run in three games with his new team.

## Cubs 4, Marlins 0

In Chicago, Drew Smyly tossed shutout ball into the seventh inning for his first win at Wrigley Field.

P.J. Higgins homered and singled, and Nico Hoerner added three hits and an RBI to help the Cubs defeat Miami for a second straight day after losing five straight.

Smyly (4-6) finally prevailed at home in his sixth start this season at Wrigley after signing a one-year, \$5.25 million contract in March that includes incentive pay and an option for 2023. The 33-year-old lefty allowed five hits, struck out four and walked none before being replaced with Mark Leiter Jr. with two outs in the seventh.



# Attorney urges Goodell to 'do the right thing' on Watson



**HOUSTON**  
(AP)—A lawyer representing two dozen women who have accused

Deshaun Watson of sexual assault or harassment said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has a chance to “do the right thing” now that the league has appealed a six-game suspension for the Cleveland Browns quarterback.

“Every victim of sexual assault is watching Roger Goodell and the NFL right now. ... Mr. Goodell, what will you do? It’s never too late to do the right thing,” attorney Tony Buzbee, who represents the women who sued Watson over their allegations, said Thursday. “That’s what these women and those watching are expecting.”

The NFL has sought to keep Watson off the field in 2022 and appealed an independent disciplinary officer’s decision that fell short of the league’s recommended penalty.

The appeal gives Goodell or someone he designates the authority to increase Wat-



AP

Ashley Solis, left, the first woman among several plaintiffs to file lawsuits accusing Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson of sexual assault or harassment, speaks as her attorney Tony Buzbee stands beside her during a news conference to give an update to the lawsuits Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022, in Houston.

son’s penalty. On Thursday, Goodell named former New Jersey Attorney General Peter C. Harvey as his designee to hear the appeal. Buzbee spoke before the league made the announcement.

Afterward, he told CBS: “I’ve said and will say: Bravo to the NFL. It’s never too late to do the right thing.”

The NFL is seeking an in-

definite suspension of at least one year plus a significant fine in appealing the suspension, a person familiar with the filing told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because the matter isn’t public knowledge, also said Watson would be required to undergo evaluation and treatment as determined by medical experts

everyone just came here to have fun. Congrats to everyone for just showing up because this was tough.”

Ackerman also jokingly suggested that the beer mile concept be somehow applied to tennis.

“I’ve never done a tennis set wherein I drank a beer every game. So, I guess that should be the next tournament where we drink one beer every game. I think everyone would show up for that,” she said.

Both she and Poole each came away with a beautifully crafted first place medal and Michelob Ultra Cooler Backpack.

Other winners of the Marpac-sponsored event were first wave runner-up Demetrius Borge (9:34) and third place Ian MacLean (10:37); second wave first placer Rosemarie Chisato (10:51), runner-up Ann Bang (11:33), and third placer Robyn Spaeth 12:26; third wave winner Chace Talbot (8:32), runner-up Scott Smith (8:40), and third placer Vic Sablan (10:16).

Under the rules of the beer mile, a participant drinks one beer, then runs 400m. He then

drinks another beer, runs a second 400m, before drinking a third beer and runs another 400m. Forgivingly, he then drinks a fourth and final beer and then takes off for the final 400m loop to finish the course. Another run is tucked in when the beer you consumed somehow reverses course.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz thanked Michelob Ultra and Marpac for sponsoring an “outstanding race.”

“Run Saipan is happy to add a new staple and signature race in the CNMI’s race calendar. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported their runners to make this race another success. Amazing and strong work runners. Congratulations. You deserved that finisher medal!”

In all, 95 out of the expected 99 runners signed up for the event. A beer mile is a 1-mile race invented by Canadian runners in 1989. It combines the physical challenge of interval training with the skill of speed drinking. The beer mile required runners to consume a 12-oz. beer before each quarter mile lap, i.e. four beers and

tan Molbaleh, 6-1, 6-0, in just 53 minutes of play.

Colin Ramsey, however, couldn’t sustain the momentum and dropped a 1-6, 3-6 match to Noah Molbaleh in 1 hour and 17 minutes.

In the rubber doubles, Cruz and Ramsey ran out of steam and lost to the Vanuatu pair, 5-7, 2-6. The doubles match lasted an hour and 38 minutes.

In Friday’s semifinals, Cruz and Ramsey lost to Tahiti, 2-0.

Cruz was defeated by Pa-toia Teripaia, 1-6, 6-0, while

Ramsey was beaten by Reynald Taaroa, 2-6, 1-6.

After the women’s final and men’s third place tie, Cruz said despite the stinging losses in the final day of competition, Team NMI still gave a good account of themselves at the 2022 Pacific Nations Cup.

Both teams entered the tournament unseeded, but surprised everyone by reaching the semifinals of both the men’s and women’s draws.

“I was super impressed by the girls’ performance. To en-

before he could be reinstated.

Former federal judge Sue L. Robinson issued her ruling Monday. She concluded Watson violated the league’s personal conduct policy after being accused by the women of sexual misconduct during massage treatments while he played for Houston.

Watson, who was with the Texans for four seasons before sitting out last season and then being traded to Cleveland in March, recently settled 23 of

24 lawsuits filed by the women. Two grand juries in Texas declined to indict Watson on criminal complaints brought by 10 of the women.

Watson has denied any wrongdoing. He has continued to practice with the Browns while awaiting resolution of his case.

Ashley Solis, the first woman to file a lawsuit against Watson, sat next to Buzbee as he discussed the case before taking the podium to share her

thoughts on the suspension.

Solis inhaled deeply and took several seconds to compose herself before recounting the abuse she said she has received since coming forward, including death threats and online harassment that led her into a deep depression.

“What do the actions of the NFL say to little girls who have suffered at the hands of someone perceived to have power?” she said. “That it’s not a big deal. That they don’t care.”

## 5

From Page 20

The 5’4” Tapay was the starting point guard of the Marianas High School Dolphins, who finished runner-up to Tinian High School in the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball Championships.

“I would like to thank my family, friends, and coaches Walter Mendez and Joe Diaz who trained me and pushed me to be the best,” said Tapay, who also suited up for Rollers, Titans, and Ol’ Aces.

Like Tapay, Joyce will be playing basketball at UOG, but unlike Tapay Joyce will also be suiting for the Lady Tritons’ soccer team.

“I’m very grateful for this opportunity and for this program. Two months ago I didn’t know where I was going to be in college. Fortunately, [Catherine Toves-Attao] called me and told me about this program,” said the Kanoa striker, forward, and midfielder and Ol’ Aces shooting guard.

As for taking up a tough course like engineering, Joyce said she will try her best to balance academics and sports in college.

“I always wanted to play sports when I go to college so this opportunity is perfect. I want to be an engineer and help design and shape up this world that we live in. I’d like to thank Jerry Tan, Tan Holdings, UOG, Mark Mendiola, and Ivan Blanco Jr. for helping us and assisting us on this journey,” said the former member of the CNMI National Women’s Football Team.

For Norita, having the oppor-

tunity to enroll at UOG while playing baseball was a dream come true.

“It’s great. I never really thought of going to college until they brought this to us. I’d like to say we’re one of the lucky ones. This is just the beginning. Learn to embrace this opportunity and once we’re done come back and give back to our community,” said the former Tanapag Braves shortstop and second base.

Ditto for Teigita, who added that enrolling at UOG is really a life-changing opportunity.

“I was not even planning to go to college. I was just trying to get back into playing baseball because it’s been years. When I went to the [UOG baseball] clinic, the scholarship opportunity was there so I grabbed it,” said the former catcher of three-time Saipan Little League champion Tanapag Falcons,

Angeles, meanwhile, echoed what the four earlier said about enrolling at UOG as a great opportunity to get a college degree and still being involved in the sport you love.

“I’m pretty sure most of us didn’t even think of going to college. I think it’s great to have this chance to get a higher education and continue playing,” said the former Tan Holdings, MP United, and Kanoa FC defender, who like Joyce also played for the CNMI Men’s National Football Team.

Like Joyce, he also thanked Attao-Toves and Blanco for helping him sign with UOG.

UOG president Dr. Thomas Krise said the athletic scholarships awarded to the five student-athletes from the CNMI is all part of UOG’s initiative to advance the student enrichment element of their strategic plan, “Para Hulo” (ever upward).

things we can take away from this event.”

He was a bit down about his and Ramsey’s last two matches though, especially the battle for third against Vanuatu.

“Today was hard for us... today was really a rough day for all of us. It was a tough game for me and Colin. I felt people weren’t expecting Vanuatu to give us too much of a hard time. I took the court and I easily beat their No. 2 seed. Vanuatu then forced a deciding doubles match...”

“The student enrichment element is trying to ensure a full university/college experience for our students—so the athletic program and the recreational program are really important. There’s also a significant leadership component and teamwork development that happens with our student-athletes so it achieves a number of aspects about the total college experience we’re providing at UOG.”

UOG Enrollment Management & Student Success dean Lawrence Camacho welcomed Tapay, Joyce, Norita, Teigita, and Angeles to the fold and said their signings fulfill one of UOG’s objectives to have and promote a robust athletic program.

“Back when we were crafting it we had men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s soccer and that was about it. But we had to strive for more and even though we’re not in the NCAA we need to do some networking to get our students excited and now we’ve developed baseball, women’s rugby, volleyball, and beach volleyball,” said Camacho, who hails from Saipan.

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, who is an alumnus of UOG, congratulated the five student-athletes who are enrolling at UOG.

“I’m very, very happy for our five athletes who have this opportunity to go to my school and very, very proud of the University of Guam and what the institution has done for the community. You can never go wrong with higher education. It’s something that you earn and nobody’s going to take it away from you. That’s going to help you to be successful in life.”

Despite the men’s team missing the podium finish, Cruz said overall Team NMI showed that there’s definitely a bright future for the national team.

“I think the CNMI will have a stronger tennis team as we look forward to the year ahead and prepare for the Micro Games, the Pacific Games, and the Nations Cup. There are three big events coming next year and one of the big things we’d like to do is beef up our national tennis program.”

## POOLE

From Page 20

like to beat the young guys. I’m 50. The experience of beating the young crew is always good for the ego,” he said.

Ackerman, who works at Tano Group, beat Run Saipan regulars with a time of 9:01 in the third wave.

She attributed her win to a propensity to liking cereal, or in this case its germinated form—malt.

“It brought together all four of my favorite things—beer, beer, beer, beer...I’m just grateful to Dr. [Ron] Snyder and the rest of those who organized this race. It was so much fun but also not much fun when you’re running it.”

Ackerman, who once ranked No. 951 in the junior International Tennis Federation rankings, said she wasn’t aware that she was beating club regulars during the beer run.

“You can say I’ve been training a lot. The whole time I told myself ‘don’t puke, don’t puke, don’t puke’... I wasn’t aware I beat any good runners. I think

## ISABEL

From Page 20

following a 6-3 6-3 victory over Timeri Wearing.

Heras then completed the sweep after overwhelming Lillian Maui, 6-0, 6-1.

In the battle for third, the CNMI men fought valiantly but ultimately surrendered a highly competitive tie against Vanuatu, 1-2.

Playing coach Bobby Cruz gave the Team NMI the early advantage after downing Fin-





WNBA's Griner  
convicted at drug  
trial, sentenced to  
9 years  
**PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Attorney urges  
Goodell to 'do the  
right thing' on  
Watson  
**PAGE 19**



20 MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 5 student-athletes sign with UOG



MARK RABAGO

From left seated, Antonio Norita, Isaiah Teigita, Paulynn Joyce, Aloyzeys Angeles, and Christian Tapay pose with University of Guam officials led by president Thomas Krise, third left standing, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, second right standing, and their parents during the UOG Athletic Scholarship Signing and Alumni Luncheon last Friday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**F**ive newly graduated high school students to whom college was almost an afterthought are now going to the University of Guam on an athletic scholarship.

Christian Tapay, Paulynn Joyce, Antonio Norita, Isaiah Teigita, and Aloyzeys Angeles all signed their letters of

intent to attend UOG during the UOG Athletic Scholarship Signing and Alumni Luncheon last Friday at Hyatt Regen-



cy Saipan.

Under the program, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated \$10,000 to help the new student-athletes start their educational and athletic journey at UOG.

"I'm very nervous and excited with this opportunity because this will open new doors for me and it will help me improve and get more knowledge at UOG," said Tapay.

See 5 on Page 19

## Poole, Ackerman top Beer Run

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Leith Poole and Tammy Ackerman proved two things last Friday during the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2022—both can run

very fast and at the same time hold their beer.

In a race that gave a whole new meaning to carbo-loading and humbled NMI National Athletics Team members and

your usual six-pack customers alike, the Marianas High School PE teacher and former tennis protege whipped up the fastest times at the Saipan Country Club.

Lining up in Wave 1, Poole finished the four beers and four miles in 8:03.

His only excuse? "I like beer. I also didn't eat a lot today. Just breakfast and snacks of apples, carrots, and dragon-fruit and came here and ran."

Running barefoot to get more traction due to the grass course, Poole said the most difficult part of the bizarre run was the first mile/beer.

"I think the first one was because of my adrenaline, but I finished it quickly and I'm happy to go and just run fast. I

See POOLE on Page 19



Ackerman



Poole

## Isabel, Hye Jin finish second; men crack Top 4

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The CNMI National Tennis Team capped their impressive stint in the 2022 Pacific Nations Cup in Lautoka, Fiji with a runner-up finish for the women and a Top 4 placing

for the men.

Isabel Heras and Hye Jin Elliot settled for second place after bowing to ranked Fiji in the championship match last Saturday.

In the first singles match, Elliot lost to Ruby Coffin, 0-6, 1-6, in a match that lasted exactly an hour.

Heras, meanwhile, ran out

of heroics when she bowed to Saoirse Breen, 2-6 2-6, in the second singles match that finished in 1 hour and 14 minutes.

On Friday, Heras and Elliot punched their finals ticket with a 2-0 win over Cook Islands.

Elliot got on the board first

See ISABEL on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isabel Heras, right, and Hye Jin Elliot accept their runner-up trophies during the awards ceremony of the 2022 Pacific Nations Cup in Lautoka, Fiji.